

# **TOWN OF PALMER**

BONDSVILLE, DEPOT VILLAGE, THORNDIKE & THREE RIVERS

## **FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**



**JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016**



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## **FACTS ABOUT PALMER**

SETTLED	1716
INCORPORATED AS A DISTRICT	1752
ACCEPTED AS A TOWN	1776
LOCATION	About 15 miles east of Springfield on Rte 20
HIGHEST ELEVATION	Colonel's Mountain 1179 feet
POPULATION	11,476
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	7-Member Town Council Town Manager
TAX RATE – FY2016	
TOWN	\$19.97 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
FIRE DISTRICT TAX	
DISTRICT #1	\$1.30 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #2	\$2.22 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #3	\$2.16 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #4	\$2.33 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	Approximately 4,330
PROPERTY VALUATION	\$886,063,743.00
AREA	Approximately Land 20,110.00 acres; Water 457.5 acres; Total 20,568.4 acres; Square Miles: 32.14
HOSPITAL	Baystate Wing Memorial Hospital
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS	Approximately 150 miles
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Palmer High School Converse Middle School Old Mill Pond Elementary Pathfinder Regional Technical High School
FIRE PROTECTION	Four Fire Districts: Palmer Fire District 1: Chief Alan Roy heads a 32-member call force with a full time Captain and Lieutenant; Three Rivers Fire District 2: Chief Scott Turner heads a 19-member call force;

	Bondsville Fire District 3: Chief Scott Gustafson heads a 22-member call force; Thorndike Fire and Water District 4 is protected by Palmer Fire District 1.
TRANSPORTATION	PVTA Village Bus, Peter Pan Bus (Walnut Street, Palmer), Council on Aging Van for transportation for seniors.
POLICE	Well established full-time police department and Emergency Dispatch center headed by Interim Chief of Police, John Janulewicz
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Walter (Beebe) Chase Memorial Park, Legion Field, Eager Playground, Palmer, Nick Laviolette Park, Three Rivers, plus playground and recreational equipment at Three Rivers Common, and Endelson Playground, Bondsville.
PUBLIC LIBRARY	1455 North Main Street, Palmer

**GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT  
AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE  
TOWN OF PALMER**

**UNITED STATES SENATORS**

Elizabeth Warren, Democrat  
Edward Markey, Democrat

**REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S.  
CONGRESS**

First Congressional District  
Richard E. Neal

Second Congressional District  
James P. McGovern

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Seventh Councilor District  
Jennie Caissie

**SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT**

Worcester, Hampden, Franklin  
and  
Hampshire Senatorial District  
Anne Gobi

**REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL  
COURT**

First Hampden Representative District  
Todd M. Smola

**HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY**

Anthony D. Gulluni

## **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

### **BOARD OF APPEALS**

Antonio Andre (Exp. 2016)  
Russell Brown (Exp. 2017)  
Norman Z. Czech (Exp. 2017)  
Dennis Fountain (Exp. 2018)  
Ingrid Thompson (Exp. 2018)  
Walter Solzak, Alt. (Exp. 2018)

### **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Lawrence M. Jasak (Exp. 2016)  
Michael J. Burns (Exp. 2017)  
Robert Leroux (Exp. 2018)

### **BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

Susan Coache, Town Clerk (Exp. 2016)  
Chester Toper (Exp. 2017)  
Carol Murphy (Exp. 2018)  
Margaret Higgins (Exp. 2018)

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

Paul Benard (Exp. 2018)  
John Lukaskiewicz (Exp. 2017)  
Jayne Heede (Exp. 2016)  
Josh Mathieu, Health Agent

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Tharyn Nein-Large (Exp. 2016)  
Donald R. Duffy (Exp. 2018)  
Peter Izyk (Exp. 2017)  
Sarah Brodeur (Exp. 2017)  
David Cotter (Exp. 2016)  
Vacant (Exp. 2018)  
Vacant (Exp. 2018)  
Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent

### **COUNCIL ON AGING**

Genevieve Bates (Exp. 2017)  
Ernie Charland (Exp. 2018)  
Linda Lamay (Exp. 2018)  
Mary Hubert (Exp. 2018)  
Peggy Corriveau (Exp. 2017)  
Betty Koss (Exp. 2017)  
Gloria Brouillette (Exp. 2017)  
Ruth Manning (Exp. 2016)  
Debbie Nathanson (Exp. 2016)  
Cathy Plouffe (Exp. 2016)  
Sharon Lemieux (Exp. 2018)

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Alice Davey, Community Development  
Director  
Linda Leduc, Planner  
Linda Leblanc, Assessor  
John Kuzmiski, Accountant  
Charles Blanchard, Town Manager

### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

John Fox (Exp. 2016)  
Frances Nowak (Exp. 2017)  
Stephen Nowak (Exp. 2017)  
Kevin Kopacz (Exp. 2016)  
Barbara O'Donnell (Exp. 2018)  
Lisl Donaldson (Exp. 2018)  
Lisa Wosniakowski (Exp. 2018)

### **LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

Richard L. Fitzgerald (Exp. 2018)  
Robert Frydryk (Exp. 2018)  
Andrew Golas (Exp. 2017)  
Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2016)  
Michael Magiera (Exp. 2017)

### **OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent  
Linda Leduc, Town Planner  
Michael Marciniec, Planning Board  
Alice Davey, Community Development  
David Cotter, Resident  
Bonnie Weeks, Zoning Officer  
Donald Blais, Jr, Town Council  
Jim Ostrout, Recreation Director  
Tharyn Nein-Large, Conservation Comm.

### **PALMER CULTURAL COUNCIL**

Christine Miarecki (Exp. 2018)  
Eileen Benoit (Exp. 2017)  
Mary Bernat (Exp. 2016)  
Ann Wright (Exp. 2016)  
Julie Zaik (Exp. 2018)

**PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Ronald W. Lemanski (Exp. 2017)  
Mildred Jasak (Exp. 2016)  
Russell Webb (Exp. 2017)  
Victoria Miner (Exp. 2018)  
David Bussell – State Appointee

**PALMER REDEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY**

Jan McCoy (Exp. 2018)  
Joseph Turek (Exp. 2016)  
Albert Lasota (Exp. 2017)  
Vacant (Exp. 2016)  
(Vacant – State Appointee)

**TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES**

**TOWN MANAGER GOALS  
COMMITTEE**

Lorinda Baker  
Barbara Barry  
Mary Salzmann

**TOWN MANAGER PERFORMANCE  
EVALUATION UPDATE COMMITTEE**

Barbara Barry  
Mary Salzmann  
Phil Hebert

**ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Donald Blais  
Lorinda Baker  
Robert Lavoie

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE LIASON  
(PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS)**

Barbara Barry

**TOWN COUNCIL RULES REVIEW  
COMMITTEE**

Robert Lavoie  
Philip Hebert  
Mary Salzmann

**PATHFINDER LIAISON**

Philip Hebert

**GREEN COMMUNITIES COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Donald Blais

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LIASON**

Karl Williams

**PVTA ADVISORY BOARD**

Paul Burns

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**COUNCILORS AT LARGE**

Robert Lavoie (Exp. 2017)  
Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2016)  
Lorinda Baker (Exp. 2018)

**PLANNING BOARD (Cont.)**

Norman Czech (Exp. 2018)  
Kathleen Burns (Exp. 2017)  
Thomas Skowyra (Exp. 2017)

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Philip J. Hebert, District #1 (Exp. 2017)  
Barbara A. Barry, District #2 (Exp. 2018)  
Karl Williams, District #3 (Exp. 2018)  
Donald Blais, Jr., District #4 (Exp. 2016)

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE (4 yrs.)**

Gary A. Blanchette (Exp. 2018)  
Andrea Mastalerz (Exp. 2016)  
Lisa Murray (Exp. 2016)  
David Lynch (Exp. 2017)  
James Lynch (Exp. 2017)

**PLANNING BOARD (4 YRS)**

Michael Marciniec (Exp. 2016)  
Andrew Golas (Exp. 2016)

**PATHFINDER REGIONAL SCHOOL  
COMMITTEE**

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Exp. 2017)  
David M. Droz (Exp. 2016)

## **APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Town Manager	Charles T. Blanchard
Director of Municipal Finance/Town Accountant	John Kuzmiski
Economic Development Director/Town Planner	Linda Leduc
Town Clerk	Susan Coache
Community Development Director	Alice Davey
Veteran's Agent/Burial Agent/Graves Officer	Deborah Shilaikis
Town Counsel	Charles Ksieniewicz
Building Inspector	Bonnie Weeks
Gas Inspector	Gary Stahelski
Electrical Inspector	Gerald Weston
Plumbing Inspector	Gerald Nichols
Forest Warden	Alan Roy
Animal Inspector/Dog Officer	Wendy LaSage
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Joseph Serrato
Director of Public Safety	John Janulewicz
Treasurer	Linda St. Onge
Tax Collector	Carolyn Baldyga
Emergency Management Director	Donald C. Elliott, Jr.
Town Assessor	Robert Leroux
Department of Public Works Director	Gerald Skowronek
DPW Operations Division Director	Rudy Pisarczyk
DPW Wastewater Division Director	Kenneth Lord
Council on Aging Director	Erin Pincince
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Michael Marciniac
Environmental Certifying Office Hearings Officer/Building Code Violations	Bonnie Weeks



## **ELECTIONS**

### **Presidential Primary Election – March 1, 2016**

#### **DEMOCRAT**

President	Bernie Sanders	934
	Hillary Clinton	684
	Martin O'Malley	7
	Roque de la Fuente	3
	No Pref.	29
	Blanks	16
State Committee Man	William R. Shemeth, III	1072
	Blanks	596
State Committee Woman	Laura L. Jette	1101
	Blanks	568
Town Committee	Group	590
	Donald J. Blais, Jr.	697
	Patricia C. Donovan	980
	John J. Dyl	765
	Patrick F. Landers, III	923
	Matthew Lovell	738
	Thomas E. Arventos	680
	James L. St. Amand	845
	Jonathan P. St. Amand	722
	David E. Whitney	774
	Margaret M. Higgins	688
	Andrea K. Mastalerz	800
	Lydia W. McKee	787
	David M. Droz	793
	Paul E. Benard	686
	Michael J. Cavanaugh	797
	Leon Wlodyka	705
	Michael J. Burns	768
	Lorna L. Burns	690
	Robert S. Dupuis	751
	Lawrence M. Jasak	949
	Blank	1093

#### **REPUBLICAN**

President	Jim Gilmore	3
	Donald J. Trump	702
	Ted Cruz	156
	George Pataki	0
	Ben Carson	44
	Mike Huckabee	2

## ELECTIONS

### REPUBLICAN (Cont.)

President (cont.)	Rand Paul	5
	Carly Fiorina	1
	Rick Santorum	0
	Chris Christie	1
	Marco Rubio	188
	Jeb Bush	4
	John R. Kasich	176
	No Pref.	7
	Blanks	2
State Committee Man	William J. Gillmeister	325
	Reed V. Hillman	792
	Blanks	177
State Committee Woman	Ronna K. Prunier	251
	Lindsay A. Valanzola	796
Town Committee	Write In	58

### GREEN RAINBOW

President	Sedinam K. C. M. Curry	0
	Jill Stein	0
	William Kreml	0
	Kent Mesplay	2
	Darryl Cherney	0
	No Pref	0
	Blank	0
State Committee Man	Blank	3
State Committee Woman	Blank	3
Town Committee	Blank	30

### UNITED INDEPENDENT PARTY

President	Blank	1
State Committee Man	Blank	3
State Committee Woman	Blank	3
Town Committee	Blank	19

## **ELECTIONS**

### **Town Election - June 14, 2016**

Councilor at Large:	Mary A. Salzmnn	500
	Blanks	232
District #4 Councilor	Matthew J. Lemieux	127
	Blanks	44
Planning Board	Michael Marciniec	460
	Write-In:	
	Paul Burns-Johnson	125
	James Skowronek	15
	Blanks	899
School Committee	Connor J. Roche	340
	Andrea K. Mastalerz	464
	James J. Lynch, III	396
	Blanks	298

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST 752

# **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

## **TOWN MANAGER**

I herewith submit the report of the Town Manager for the Town of Palmer for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to all of the dedicated department heads, town staff, elected officials and numerous volunteers who serve on the many boards, commissions and committees for all of their hard work and commitment to make Palmer a better community in which to live, and for their contributions to the important accomplishments listed below.

Some of the accomplishments of the Town during FY16 included:

- The design for the renovation of the Town Administration Building has been completed. The project will be go out to bid in August, 2016 and we hope to award a contract and complete the project by the spring of 2017.
- The new Endelson Playground project was completed in December, 2015 and the Grand Opening was held on June 11, 2016. Families and children of all ages have been enjoying this beautiful playground since its completion.
- Eight candidates participated in the Sergeants Assessment Center that was conducted in November which resulted in the promotion of Raymond Tenczar to the position of Sergeant. Kenneth White was appointed Acting Sergeant.
- The Director of Public Works position was re-advertised after the June ballot vote changing the job qualifications. Gerald Skowronek was selected from a field of nineteen candidates to be the new DPW Director. As part of the DPW re-organization plan Ken Lord was appointed Assistant DPW Director - WWTP and Stormwater, and Rudy Pisarczyk was appointed Assistant DPW Director – Operations.
- As required by the Town Charter every five years, a Special Committee on Ordinance Recodification was appointed by the Town Council to review the Town's Ordinances. The Committee presented its recommendations to the Town Council in May and these recommendations were unanimously approved by the Town Council by the June deadline stated in the Charter. The revised Code of Ordinances is scheduled to be issued in the first part of FY17.
- The Town entered into an agreement with the State called the Community Compact to receive support to develop best practices in Housing and Economic Development and Financial policies.
- The Town adopted its first comprehensive Pavement Management Plan with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in December.
- The Town assisted the School Committee and Administration with the much needed replacement of the gymnasium floor at the Old Mill Pond School. This work was

completed on a tight schedule during the Christmas vacation period.

- Several of the Traffic Advisor Committee's recommendations for safety improvements were implemented this year, including a new three-way stop plan for the center of Bondsville and various signage and crosswalk improvements throughout town.
- Proposals for town-wide municipal solid waste and re-cycling services were solicited this year and three proposals were received and evaluated. After all factors were considered it was determined that it is not feasible to implement this now or in the foreseeable future. We are hoping to be able to join a Regional Transfer Center in Warren next year.
- After a year-long study completed with the assistance of the PVPC that was funded by a State Local Technical Assistance Grant, the Town entered into an agreement with Monson, Warren and Ware for a Regional Animal Control Shelter currently located at the Palmer Animal Shelter. The regional center opened in January.
- The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has met regularly over the past two years to plan the monthly events we have enjoyed this year, and they are finalizing the plans for the Anniversary Parade on October 15, 2016.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Town Council for their support and clarity in defining the goals and policies for our town government, and to Andrew Golas for the help he continues to provide as Executive Assistant to the Town Manager and the Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Blanchard  
Town Manager

## **TOWN COUNCIL**

I hereby submit the report of the Town Council of the Town of Palmer for Fiscal Year 2016.

Over the past several years the Council has been committed to investing in the buildings and infrastructure of our community and we have continued to support many projects again this year to help strengthen the future of the Town. We have made significant progress in this area and it continues to be a top priority of the Town Council.

The following projects were supported in Fiscal Year 2016 and have either been completed or are in process:

- Renovation of the Town Administration Building. This project is out to bid and we hope that the renovation will be completed in the spring of 2017. This renovation will allow for the re-use of the area of the building which was used by the Police Department. It will provide a reconfiguration of office space for many departments and an expansion of the Town Council meeting room.
- The Endelson Playground Project was completed in December, 2015 and the Splash Park was activated during the Grand Opening of the Park in June, 2016 to the delight of many of the kids that were in attendance. A thank you to all of those individuals that made this park possible and to those that remain committed to this day in ensuring that the park is maintained. It is noticed and appreciated by many.
- Funds were allocated for new carpeting at Old Mill Pond School. This project will begin during the summer of 2017. The hope is that all carpets will be replaced at this time. If this is not feasible due to time constraints the project will be completed during the summer of 2018.
- A new sidewalk was installed in front of Old Mill Pond School.
- Significant investments were made in equipment purchases for the Department of Public Works. Items purchased included a Street Sweeper, a Catch Basin Cleaner, a Lawn Mower and a Dump Truck.

The Town Council continued to make the Town of Palmer a safer place to live in FY2016. In response to the fatal apartment fire which occurred in February of 2015, the Town Council moved forward with adopting Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148, Sec. 26 H and Sec. 26 I. This law requires that all boarding houses install sprinkler systems within the next five years. Also, any new or significantly renovated housing units with three or more units will be required to have sprinkler systems as well. We would like to thank the Fire Chiefs from each District as well as the Building Inspector for working together to bring this forward to the Council for adoption.

As we move forward as a community, we look toward opportunities to improve the economic viability of the Town of Palmer. The Council signed a letter of support to study the impact of a Springfield to Boston commuter rail with a stop in Palmer, and supported a number of zone change initiatives in the downtown Palmer area to help attract more business to town. We also

support the efforts being made by many individuals and groups to revitalize the Main Street, Three Rivers section of town.

The year 2016 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Palmer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee as well as all those businesses and individuals that have supported the many events that this committee has sponsored or co-sponsored with other groups and organizations over the course of 2016. We are looking forward the parade that will be held in October, 2016.

The Town Council continually strives to move the Town forward and to offer quality services to the residents of Palmer. We would like to thank the Town Manager, all staff, members of boards and committees and all the many dedicated volunteers who work to make Palmer a great community to live.

We encourage you to get involved. You can make a difference. We look forward to working together in the coming year as we continue to move Palmer forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Barry  
Town Council President

## **TOWN CLERK**

### **MARRIAGES 2015-2016**

#### **July**

1	Michael Denis Sullivan	Palmer	Julie Marie Kent	Palmer
5	Thomas M. Wegiel	Palmer	Dorothy M. Lynch	Palmer
11	Thomas Vincent Casey III	Palmer	Beth Ann Despres	Palmer
17	Justin Adam Kania	Palmer	Kristy Lee Knight	Palmer
18	Aske Ladegaard Andersen	Denmark	Ashley M. Montcalm	Denmark
18	Matthew J. Chalue	Palmer	Amanda M. Storey	Palmer

#### **August**

8	Alan Michael Courchesne	Florida	Sonya Christine Judson	Florida
15	Marc Allen Lenart	Palmer	Christie Lee Findlay	Palmer
15	Richard S. Martinek	Palmer	Jessica L. Race	Palmer
16	Jesse W. Johnson	Palmer	Paul E. Burns	Palmer
17	Matthew W. Morris	Palmer	Gina M. Scagliarini	Palmer
22	William Joseph Miller	Monson	Danielle Carolyn Hickey	Springfield
23	Gregory Charles Gibbs	Palmer	Erin Michelle Korzec	Palmer
29	Troy Alan Aldag	Palmer	Dorota Cygan	Palmer

#### **September**

3	Muhammad Waqas Amin	Palmer	Namra Arif	Palmer
3	Matthew J. Plourde	California	Kara J. Droz	California
4	William Joseph Dipietro, III	Palmer	Amanda Jean Mischia	Palmer
12	Joshua J. Gagnon	Palmer	Jamy J. Shields	Palmer
15	Earle S. Conrad	Palmer	Christine E. Hasselman	Palmer
18	Jared M. Laroche	Palmer	Michelle L. Remillard	Palmer
21	Dmitriy Lissitsine	Brimfield	Irina Chertovskaya	Washington
26	Nathan J. Berrios	Palmer	Alicia L. Belden	Palmer
26	Shawn A. Chase	Palmer	Carrie A. Morris	Palmer
26	William P. Mott	Connecticut	Martha M. Fila	Palmer

#### **October**

3	Stanley W. Witkop III	Monson	Tammy S. Masse	Monson
10	Scott D. Gustafson	Palmer	Penny L. McCarthy	Palmer
10	Thomas Sin Ngan	Palmer	Ashley Marie Erickson	Palmer
11	James Edward Foley	Palmer	Jennifer Rose Simkiss	Palmer
16	David R. Chmura	Palmer	Kelly M. McClure	Palmer
17	Jonathan D. Pratt	Palmer	Elaine F. McNeill	Palmer
22	Ryan T. Gauthier	Palmer	Nicole M. Twining	Palmer
24	Scott Allen Bergeron	Palmer	Samantha Rose Berry	Palmer

#### **November**

3	Corey M. Raftery	Palmer	Stefanie L. Quinn	Palmer
28	Joseph A. Chiacchia	Palmer	Lori L. Jodoin	Palmer



**December**

5	Osbert Milton Baker	Mattapan	Joanne Eleanor Hendricks	Palmer
5	Kyle Christopher Hastings	Palmer	Amber Marie Kumpulanian	Palmer
12	John Albert Paolino, III	Springfield	Erin Marie Ayotte	Palmer
24	Zachary Douglas Kinnick	California	Hailee Belle Brohman	Palmer
26	William Harrington Bulman, Jr.	Palmer	Gwen G. White	Palmer
31	Thomas G. Grubbs	Palmer	Elizabeth J. Bilodeau	Palmer

**January**

2	Gary J. Miarecki	Palmer	Pamela A. Gelinas	Palmer
30	David A. Wood Jr.	Palmer	Rebekah E. Delisle	Palmer

**February**

15	Michael J. Beder	Monson	Molly E. Fitzsimmons	Monson
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**March**

23	Justin David Pensinger	Warren	Robin Marie Jarvis	Warren
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**April**

23	Joshua E. Bertera	Palmer	Heather A. Salamon	Palmer
23	Joshua T. Smith	Springfield	Amanda P. Walsh	Wilbraham

**May**

14	Dillon Michael Childs	Palmer	Alyssa Marie Wojtowicz	Palmer
15	Jason Scott Chatel	Palmer	Lori Beth Martin	Palmer
27	Joshua Emil Chapin	Palmer	Shannah Marie Stearns	Palmer
28	Brian Richard Stanley	Palmer	Lauren Marie Pellegrine	Palmer
28	Matthew R. Zlotkowski	Palmer	Jennifer Lee Morrow	Palmer

**June**

13	Edward Michael Lukas, Sr.	Ware	Kayla Elaine Savicki	Ware
18	Zachary R. Calkins	Palmer	Heather M. Frenette	Palmer
18	Barry John Theodore	Palmer	Tracey Elizabeth Mack	Palmer
19	Paul D. Fosberg	Palmer	Andrea Ellen Caron	Palmer
25	Benjamin Michael Petrie	Palmer	Maegan Li-Ann Irwin	Palmer

## DEATHS 2015-2016

Date	Name	Age
<b>July</b>		
2	Alifano, Gerald Alexander	79
4	Kokoszka, Veronica B.	91
5	Ennis, Edward Michael	71
6	Mastalerz, Julia C.	98
7	Switak, Stanley J.	90
10	Wrubel, Enes E.	95
13	Lamothe, Helen Gertrude	89
13	Mayo, Kimberly Joyce	67
18	Pascale, Roxy Jehiel	67
21	Wallace, Lawrence Paul	62
25	Bray, Kathleen Mary	67
25	Jacek, Ruth Florence	87
28	McClosky, Adella J.	91
31	Lichenberg, Olga Z.	92
<b>August</b>		
5	Disley, Virginia Pearl	93
9	Desharnais, David Alfred	65
10	Pascale, Patricia Mae	71
11	Cusson, Anthony Albert	55
20	Sandomierski, Maria	71
21	Pack, Charles R.	67
26	Kowalczyk, Theresa C.	72
28	Carlow, Hazel Virginia	87
<b>September</b>		
3	David O. Riley	54
4	Lois E. Emery	83
4	Paul Robert Kirk	87
6	Cawley, Suzanne Elaine	89
7	Genevieve Mary Pascale	69
7	George Stephen Martin	58
8	Michael D. Roulston	55
12	Erbentraut, Betty	86
19	Donald F. Bonneau	76
21	Robert Albert Gregoire	75
21	Robert Rich	84
27	Edna Steele	89
30	Patricia Sternala	85
<b>October</b>		
1	Irene S. Michonski	90
3	Joseph F. Foucher Sr.	81
5	Henry Robert West	80
6	Herbert Edward Sandford	92
8	Virginia Lee Watson	75

15	Kent J. Friberg	64
15	Doris S. Nahabedian	84
14	John Guy Robert	53
16	Carol Louise Vannett	58
17	Mary Lou Furtek	49
20	Eugene Peter Piechota	70
24	Maria Teresa Balbino	76
24	Marilyn White	72
25	Kevin John Kostolecki	64
28	Anna G. Wegrzyn	93
30	Karen Elizabeth King	57
30	Anita Lorraine McKee	89
30	Zella T. Santucci	98

### **November**

14	Joyce Maybel Barnes	79
14	Christopher R. Potter	49
19	Theresa N. Mercure	62
20	Josephine S. Tobias	90
24	Annette Cote	95
27	Rory L. Bacon	53
28	Bertha Catherine Hine	97
29	Arlene T. Shea	89
29	Genevieve Teresa Srodulski	87

### **December**

2	Joan Ann Brousseau	71
2	Yvonne M. Taillefer	80
8	Erwin Tanne	85
9	Rene R. Leroux	79
10	Robert E. Tower	90
12	Roland Gerard Morin	95
13	John David Cheesey	78
13	Peter K. Minkley	60
13	James Michael Weinberg	60
14	Michael J. Russo	96
18	Claire Theresa Jasinski	78
19	Robert James Thomas	54
21	Daniel F. Duncan	73
24	Francis Roberty Vadnais	60
25	Janice M. Staeb	78
29	Phyllis E. Squaire	76
31	Robert Ernest Cote	76
31	Garry F. LeBlanc	59

### **January**

1	William R. Tetreault	74
1	Steven Melnick	96
2	Bruce Nello Cabrini Jr.	31
6	Mary A. Kulis	97

10	Donna May Martin	73
12	Yvonne Medlock	95
16	James H. Sears	78
18	Muriel A. Gran	70
22	Frances Helen Kszepka	84
24	Kathleen Marie Warren	88
25	Rolande Marie Kenefick	91
25	Helen Irene Pikul	92
26	Roger Glenn Thomas	71
27	Helen Backiel	100
28	Harry H. Johnson	89
29	Francis John Kowalczyk	81
29	Stanley A. Kwasnik	89

## February

3	Yvonne Marie Corish	74
3	Bethany Ann Doolin	82
3	Earl L. Stockwell	89
4	Carolann Marie Sullivan	70
5	Roger A. Bosworth	66
6	George C. Kibbe	72
7	David G. Walsh	79
8	George Bowers Henderson Sr.	77
10	Michael Demos	28
10	Jeanne Claire McKee	85
12	Paul J. Dennett	62
13	William Pearl Knapp	96
13	Mary Jean Newell	74
20	Alice T. Bennett	90
20	Louise J. Perry	56
24	Michael John Gow	48
24	Henry M. Jusko	88
28	Gene Frederick Papineau	91

## March

1	Alan T. Floyd	61
2	Marie F. Mailman	77
9	Grace Morin	87
13	Eugene Richard Campbell	73
17	Shirley Anita Dupre	87
17	Alice Eva Losaw	62
21	John Larry Pobieglo	69
23	Helen E. Roman	97

## April

1	Edward F. Gilman	88
4	Ethel S. Orszulak	98
5	Thomas Edward Girouard	59
5	Arthur Tingley Outhuse	93
6	James L. Charbonneau	50

7	Richard J. O'Brien	77
8	Curtis J. Penoyer	69
10	Sandy Lee Labombard	56
10	Elizabeth A. Meyer	87
11	Emily H. Glabicky	101
12	Ronald P. Magrone	68
12	Sandra Robbins	68
15	Lorraine M. Machnik	92
16	George Edward Labombard	79
17	Linda Patricia Mulvaney	67
19	June C. Charbonneau	74
21	John Cunningham	78
22	Gerard G. Berthiaume	91
26	Theresa Ann Spratt	80
27	Theresa J. Wymers	89
28	Lucille Lavoie Regnier	90
30	Mildred B. Hunter	85
30	Michael Petrowicz	73

## May

1	Doris M. Roe	94
7	Michael Arthur Passy	55
15	Michelle Denise Staples	50
16	Helen E. Maryniski	95
17	Timothy James Stone	37
24	Edward Richard Barry	83
26	Mark Woytowicz	53
28	Theresa Cummings	85
28	Debra Kay Stoner	61
29	Leokadia Wasiuk	94

## June

2	Walter E. Rutkowski	75
3	Charles Edward Russis	84
4	Frederick Burton Corey	86
4	Colleen Patricia Russo	51
5	Mary S. Miarecki	102
6	Harold Bose Jr.	66
7	Marion Johnson	91
9	Arline Marie Sousa	72
10	Virginia M. Smith	83
12	Robert Michael Byrnes	67
15	Amelia A. Wojtowicz	83
19	Peter Alcide David Klassanos	74
22	Blake Howard Hott	75
24	Louis J. Larose	87
26	Theresa Juliette McCarthy	95
26	Dennis William Philibotte	55
28	Mildred S. Kapinos	92
29	Bliss, Dawn	92

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Conservation Commission Introduction**

The Palmer Conservation Commission (The Commission) administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) and associated regulations (310 CMR 10.00). The Commission also reviews all Forest Cutting Plans within the town, all septic system plans within the jurisdiction of the WPA and any project within areas of protected rare/endangered species and/or priority habitat governed by the National Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP), a division of the Massachusetts Fisheries & Wildlife.

Accordingly, any proposed activity that may remove, fill, dredge or alter a wetland resource area is subject to the Commission's approval. Wetlands that are subject to protection under the act include any area within 100 feet of a swamp, marsh, forested wetland, vernal pool, pond, intermittent stream, and the 100-year flood zone. The Commission also has jurisdiction within 200 feet of any stream that flows year round, unless the stream is designated as a densely developed area. In this case, the jurisdiction is from the mean annual high water mark 25 feet out. It should be noted that wetlands may not be wet all year round and low areas that flood in the spring may be considered wetlands as well.

### **The Role of the Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission regulates permit activities that may alter wetlands or their buffer zones in protected areas. Regulated activities include, but are not limited to, dumping leaves, brush, grass, debris, cutting trees or shrubs, reconstructing lawns, building or constructing any type of structures or a septic system, grading, excavating, or filling, changing storm water discharge, polluting wetlands or streams, creating any impervious surface (paving a driveway). Activities within protected area may require a permit, for more information on any given project please consult our Wetlands Protection Brochure available in the Conservation Commission Office.

### **Members of the Conservation Commission**

The Commission is made up of Palmer residents that share a passion for protecting the wetland resources of the town. Commissioners are appointed by the Town Manager for a three-year term. The Commissioners and their Agent are continuously educating themselves through training programs, seminars and conferences sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) in order to stay current with constantly evolving rules and regulations, updated scientific data and best management practices.

The following Conservation Commission Member served in Fiscal Year 2016: Mr. Tharyn Nein-Large (Chair), Mr. Donald Duffy (Vice-Chair), Mr. Peter Izyk, Mr. David Cotter, and Ms. Sarah Brodeur. There are currently two open vacancies on the Commission and all interested resident should send a letter of request to the Town Manager.

Additionally, Ms. Angela Panaccione has been serving as the towns Conservation Agent since 2013. As Conservation Agent Ms. Panaccione serves as an informational resource to the Commission by performing routine and complex professional, administrative and technical duties; including keeping the Commissioners informed on changes in Federal and State environmental protection regulations, as appropriate. Ms. Panaccione also reviews all filings and analyzes submitted data and plans for compliance with the requirements of Wetlands

Protection Act, the Rives Protection Act, the Town of Palmer's Wetlands Protection Ordinance and associated federal, state, and local regulations; manages the processing of all wetlands filings for proper and timely action associated with Commission business to ensure compliance with legally mandated deadlines. She also advises applicants on wetlands applications for various projects by providing consultation services as needed; maintaining office appointments; communicating with all applicants, engineers, attorneys, consultants, etc. and scheduling and conducting through site visits and preliminary project review, to ensure that proposed projects do not threaten environmental and conservation values and interests. Additionally, Ms. Panaccione investigates complaints of wetland violations, coordinates & monitors potential violations and recommends appropriate action needed for site remediation.

**Table 1: Total filings per category/ per year**

PERMITS	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2016	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2015	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2014
Request for Determining Applicability/ Determination of Applicability	10	6	7
Notice of Intent/ Order of Conditions/Amended NOI & OOC	9	5	6
Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation/ Order of Resource Area Delineation	4	0	0
Requests for Extensions of Orders of Conditions	2	1	1
Enforcement Orders/Cease & Desist Letters (violations)	7	2	2
Emergency Certifications	2	0	1
Certifications of Compliance	5	4	2
Site Visits	277	96	112

### **Important Issues and Accomplishments of FY 2016**

Over FY 2016 the Commission participated in several important conservation outreach and education projects, including:

- **Updating Palmer Wetlands Regulations:** The Commission had revised the 1988 Town of Palmer Wetlands Regulations to coincide with the amended 2013 Wetlands Ordinance. During FY 2016, the Commission held a series of public hearings and informational sessions on the new revised Regulations. After the Public Hearing and Public comment period, the regulations were promulgated by the Commission on August 8, 2016.
- **"It's Clean" - Water Quality Testing:** The Commission, in partnership with the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council (C4RWC), began Bacteria sampling at select sites on Thursday 7/23/2015. This effort starts our pilot year of sampling to inform watershed residents on the recreational health of the rivers in the basin. These first sites

(Ion the Swift, 1 on the Quaboag) are in areas where paddling "Blue Trails" are being planned. Results are posted on ["Is it Clean"](#), a site in partnership with CRWCIPVPC. Click on the Palmer Water Street & First Street balloon and see how our site sampled!

- **2015 Source to Sea (S2S) Clean-up:** The Commission organized the first Swift River Clean-up, as part of the Connecticut River Watershed Councils (CRWC) 19<sup>th</sup> annual Source to Sea Cleanup. Over these two-day, event spans select sites across all four states (NH, VT, MA, CT) of the 410+ mile Connecticut River basin. Volunteers remove trash along rivers, streams, parks, boat launches, trails and more. The Commission led a group along the Swift River Greenbelt on Saturday September 26, 2015 from the cul-de-sac at the end of First Street, in Bondsville MA. Another clean-up of the same location was coordinated by Commissioner Sarah Brodeur, and held on Saturday May 21, 2016. Additionally, the Commission will again participate in this year's S2S on Saturday September 24, 2016.
- **Lake Thompson Ecological Restoration (DEP #256-0314):** The Lake Thompson Civic Association (LTCA) received an Order of Conditions for an Aquatic Management Program at Lake Thompson; a 37± acre waterbody located in Palmer, MA. The lake is relatively shallow (average depth of 6 feet), providing ideal growing conditions for a number of nuisance species that have historically become problematic in the lake. When left unman aged, dense growth of aquatic vegetation can degrade water quality, fish/wildlife habitat, and reduce recreational access to the pond. The objective of the management program is to control growth of nuisance aquatic plant species specifically non-native variable watermilfoil and large leaf pondweed, to improve and maintain open water habitat, maintain water quality, promote growth of less pervasive species, and provide safe recreational access to the pond. Based on the type, distribution, and density of nuisance species in Lake Thompson, it has been concluded the restoration goals can best be achieved through the prudent use of USEPA MADAR registered herbicides and other BMPs.

### **Important Permits Issued during FY 2016**

Over the 2016 Fiscal year the Commission has been extremely busy administering and enforcing the WPA and the PWO, and reviewing various large scale developments for compliance, such as:

- **Sherwood Lumber Rail Spur Expansion (DEP #256-0308):** The Sherwood Lumber Corporation received an Order of Conditions to construct a railroad siding through several parcels owned by the company at the end of Third Street. The siding will begin at the existing New England Central Railroad Spur and extend across the Third Street cul-de-sac, ending at the southern side of the property for a distance of approximately 2,700 feet. The purpose of the project is to increase efficiency within the stockyard and reduce the truck traffic to the stockyard. The proposed railroad siding will greatly reduce or eliminate incoming truck deliveries to the stockyard. The Swift River abuts the project to the west and the north. There is a 25' Riverfront Area approved for Designated Densely Developed Areas in the town of Palmer. There are no impacts proposed to the 25' Riverfront Area. Under this Order of Conditions 2477 sq. ft. of wetland will be altered and 2500 sq. ft. of wetland is to be created and replanted with wetlands vegetation upon completion.



- **Lot 2 Boston Road Stream Restoration & Solar Array (DEP #256-0309):** In 2012, approximately nine (9) of the twelve (12) acres of Lot 2 Boston Road were illegally cleared and 450-feet of the intermittent stream was diverted through a 18-inch corrugated metal pipe to an undisturbed lower reach of the stream. As identified by the Commission and later delineated by Wetlands Consultants, Inc. approximately 860 LF of Bank Resource; 6,230 SF of LUW, and 30,000 SF of 50-foot No Disturb Zone were disturbed or filled and are required under this order to be restored to their original condition. Prior to any work on the Proposed Solar Array the site restoration must be substantially (at least 80) completed
- **Palmer Landfill Solar Array (DEP #256-0311):** Syncarpha Bondsville, LLC received an Order of Conditions for the installation of a 4.97 MW ground-mounted photovoltaic solar facility on approximately 27 acres of the 36-acre Palmer Landfill parcel. The Ware River abuts the project to the east and the activities proposed within the 200-foot Riverfront Area will occur within the limit of previously degraded areas and within the limits of the Landfill solid waste site-assigned parcel. Proposed work will not be located closer to the perennial stream than existing conditions. The amount of disturbance in the Riverfront Area is 39,345 SF. In order to improve the capacity of the riverfront area to protect the interests of the Act, the Applicant will plant three groups of three highbush blueberry shrubs (9 total) along the Bank of the perennial stream to provide wildlife habitat value. And will also remove invasive brush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*) along the tree line and within the 200 foot Riverfront Area.
- **MassDOT Toll Plaza Demolition (DEP #245-0312):** The Massachusetts Department of Transportation received an Order of Conditions for the demolition and improvement of the existing Legacy Toll Plaza # 8, on 1-90, in Palmer. The project includes the demolition of the existing toll plaza, reconfiguration of the traffic lanes surrounding the toll plaza, removal of existing pavement, full-depth pavement construction and milling and overlay within the existing roadway, and the reconfiguration of the Route 32 entry/exit ramps. Stormwater management upgrades will be made to improve inadequate drainage systems throughout the Project Site. The Project as proposed occurs solely within the buffer zones of jurisdictional resource areas protected under the WPA and the Palmer WPO; and consist of toll plaza demolition and lane reconfiguration. The Project will result in a decrease of impervious surfaces within the Buffer Zone and all surfaces converted from impervious to pervious within the Project Site will be loamed and seeded with a long term seed mix for lawns and slopes.

## Goals/Activities for FY 2017

- **Acquisition of the "Turnpike" Property:** Since the early 1990's, the Commission has actively been pursuing the acquisition of 92 acres along Kings Brook, known as the Brainerd/Mass Pike parcel, from Mass DOT. If acquired, this parcel can be accessed from the 200 acre Midura Conservation land on Old Warren Road and would become part of it, thereby extending Midura to the Mass Pike. Additionally, trails exist on the property for recreational purposes, which the Commission would maintain and connect into from Midura.
- **Developing a "Blue-way" on the Swift River:** Like hiking trails, Blue Trails offer people an opportunity to explore. A water trail offers paddlers a healthy recreational activity and the chance to come to know a river. The Commission will be working with

the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council (C4RWC) on developing a canoe/kayak trail on the Swift River. Several locations in town have been identified as possible put in/take out location. This year the Commission will begin to design a launch at the end of First Street, as well as conduct a feasibility assessment of the various town owned parcels to determine the sites best suited for a takeout location.

- **Town Wide Road-Stream Crossing Assessment:** The Commission has joined the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), which is a network of individuals from universities, conservation organizations, and state and federal natural resource and transportation departments focused on improving aquatic connectivity across the Northeast. This coming year the Commission will begin assessing road-stream crossings (culverts and bridges) in Palmer, according to NAACC protocol, and will use the data to identify high priority bridges and culverts for upgrade and replacement. The project will support planning and decision making in town by providing tools and information on what projects are likely to have the greatest aquatic connectivity benefits and resiliency benefits. The Commission is also partnering with the Department of Ecological Restoration (DER) to potentially replace identified undersized and unsafe culverts with ones that allow for natural stream flow processes, provide aquatic organism passage, and improve storm readiness.

The Commission is always looking to expand its base through associated members, interns or volunteers (for water quality monitoring, river clean-up and trail maintenance this summer). Anyone interested should contact the Commission at [conservation@townofpalmer.com](mailto:conservation@townofpalmer.com).

The Commission would like to thank Vice-Chairman Donald Duffy, whom resigned at the start of the new fiscal year, for all his hard work and efforts over the years. Donald was a member of the Conservation Commission and has served the Community for 37 years, serving as both Chair and Vice-Chair at numerous different points. Donald was vital to the Commission 1980's Special Enabling Legislation and acquisition of the discontinued roads in the Shaw District, as well as acquisition of old Browns Farm & School House and the several parcels that now make up the 200 acre Midura Family Conservation Land. Overall, Don helped to protect approximately 400 acres of Conservation Land in Palmer. Additionally, he participated in the original drafting of the 1982 Wetlands Bylaw and supporting regulation, as well as the Special Enabling Legislation to authorize the Commission to begin timber harvests on Conservation Land.

The Commission would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Interns Victoria White and Emily Lessard for all their hard work and effort this year! Additionally, the Commission would also like to thank all the residents of Palmer for their support over the past years.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela C Panaccione  
Conservation Agent  
Palmer Conservation Commission

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

The Palmer Planning Board, consisting of five elected members, met regularly during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016. It is the Board's policy to meet as often as necessary to conduct business deemed appropriate under Massachusetts General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Palmer, generally the first and third Mondays of each month if meeting space is available.

The Planning Department is comprised of the following elected members and staff:

### **Elected Board Members**

Chairman	Michael Marciniac
Vice Chairman	Norman Czech
Clerk	Andrew Golas
	Thomas Skowyra
	Kathy Burns

### **Staff**

Town Planner/Economic Development Director	Linda Leduc
Administrative Assistant	Nicole Parker

During the past 12-months, the Planning Board held twenty four regular meetings, as well as conducted numerous site inspections and review inspections. In addition to our own meetings, we have also had meetings with other Boards and Committees and have attended seminars and workshops to help better prepare our members for the positions for which they have been elected. During these various public meetings, the Board held hearings and acted on twelve Special Permits, thirteen Site Plan Approvals, twelve storm water permits, made three findings, endorsed seven requests for Waiver of Site Plan and signed fourteen Subdivision Approval Not Required (SANR) plans that met current zoning requirements and therefore were deemed exempt from subdivision regulations. Two zone changes on Park Street were considered by the Board and approved by Town Council.

Due to the Permit Extension Act of 2010, this was the first year that review of existing Gravel Operations were again allowed since the Act was passed. As a result, the Board reviewed and granted Special Permits for the continued extraction of earth materials at four existing operations. As in the past, yearly interim inspections were conducted and all required operating documents and fees were collected.

The interest in developing large-scale, ground mounted, photovoltaic systems within Town has decelerated. During FY16 two projects were permitted, both under 1 megawatt. Due to the net metering cap, there were significant wait times for two particular projects. Previously permitted in FY15, but not receiving formal interconnection approval until this year, a 3.6 MW solar project on Peterson Road, and a 4MW project on the former Emery Street landfill should begin construction and start generating power within the following months.

The Board, through Energy Committee representation, supported a third Green Communities grant application. On July 9, 2015 the Town was awarded \$211,584.00 to implement 9 projects in 6 town owned buildings to include the following: weatherization upgrades at the Public Library, DPW Garage, and all three schools; exterior lighting retrofits at the Old Mill Pond Elementary School, the Palmer High School and the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and a burner upgrade at the WWTP. Collectively, these improvements are projected to reduce the Town's electricity use by 149,390 kWh, natural gas consumption by 3,237 therms and heating oil use by 2,353 gallons; a total annual

energy savings of 1,171 MMBTus and a projected cost savings of \$38,356.00 per year. With the ever-changing technology in the area of power generation and conservation and in consideration of the federal and state incentives that are currently being offered, we continue to pursue promising programs that will benefit the residents by stabilizing our energy costs and replacing aging infrastructure. Legislation adopted in the current session included hydroelectric power development. The town will pursue incentives to this technology where it may potentially benefit to the community.

The upturn in the economy has been noticed throughout town as approvals and permits granted by the Board are coming to fruition. Most notably, the opening of O'Reilly Auto Parts store on North Main street, the conversion of the Knights of Columbus building to a medical office building on Ware Rd, the new construction of auto body business on Park Street and the relocation of Michael's Party Rental headquarters to South Main Street. Additionally, the construction of a new Junction Variety has broken ground, and two businesses in the Palmer Industrial Park, Detector Technology and Shed Works, have expanded. Sherwood Lumber was approved to install a new rail spur on to their property to alleviate rail car congestion resulting in an overall improvement to rail service throughout the park. Waivers for the need to apply for a full site plan review were granted to Fire Services Group, Domino's Pizza and the Amherst Railway Society all of which resulted in improving existing structures in town while creating numerous jobs.

Economic Development continues to remain a priority. The Economic Development Director continues to attend development conferences and meet regularly with like groups such as the Economic Development Partners, the Quaboag Valley Commercial Action Network, Mass Development, and regional directors of the Mass Office of Business Development to attract development to the five Priority Development Sites as well as to various undeveloped, underutilized parcels. The Department met numerous times with representatives of Palmer Motor Sports to discuss ongoing efforts to minimize any interruption in the quality of life for our residents and our surrounding communities. This development has had a positive impact based on information from local business owners. We continue to pursue options with the mill owners in Thorndike. Future commercial development at the Shearer/Thorndike Street intersection remains a priority and discussions with potential developers are ongoing. The Board and Economic Development Director realize the great economic benefit a future rail stop would bring to Palmer and will continue to participate in regional forums and studies and represent Palmer's interest in this matter.

The Board continually works to improve its site design standards and parking requirements by adding more sustainable design practices to the process. These will be implemented through amendment of our current Site Plan Review criteria. The Board is also drafting a mill overlay district to diversify and augment the industrial uses currently allowed in the Village of Thorndike and a new commercial business district to accommodate denser more vertical building development centered-around pedestrian-oriented plazas. This commercial business district would be applicable to the Thorndike Street corridor as development interest continues to be oriented proximal to the Mass Pike exchange.

In closing, the Planning Board would like to thank the citizens of Palmer, elected officials, town boards and the Planning Department staff for assisting us in our planning endeavors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael S. Marciniac  
Chairman

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

In October 2015 Emily Malcovsky started as a part time clerk for the Inspection Services Department. The position has allowed for expanded hours in the department and assistance for the public when the Inspector is in the field. Emily's presence in the Department over the last several months has proven to be invaluable.

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016 permit applications, specifications and plans were reviewed, permits were issued and construction monitored for the following:

PERMITS ISSUED IN FY-16				
TYPE		NUMBER OF PERMITS	FEE TOTALS	ESTIMATED COST TOTALS
New	Commercial	10	\$13,291.42	\$1,925,900.00
	Single Family Homes	4	\$4,916.13	\$821,000.00
	Multi-Family Homes			
	Residential-Summer Camps			
	Other - Summer Camps	1	\$10,048.53	\$2,648,004.00
Solar	Residential	96	\$16,271.37	\$2,828,381.33
	Commercial	4	\$49,374.50	\$9,854,900.00
Additions	Residential	3	\$250.00	\$25,800.00
	Commercial			
Mobile Homes	Replacement	2	\$500.00	\$130,000.00
Renovations/Alterations	Residential	95	\$22,305.24	\$6,974,864.00
	Commercial	25	\$9,593.50	\$1,128,446.00
Garage/Barn	Residential	15	\$4,826.60	\$337,407.00
	Commercial			
Decks/Porches/Stairs	Residential	18	\$1,409.00	\$91,163.00
	Commercial			
Temporary Structures	Residential			
	Commercial			
Convert		2 to 1 Family	1	\$100.00
	To Commercial Space	1	\$429.00	\$57,300.00

Roofing/Siding/Insulation/ Window or Door Replacement	Municipal	3		\$33,584.00
	Residential	215	\$10,680.00	\$1,487,589.56
	Commercial	9	\$935.00	\$142,877.00
Mechanical/ Sheet Metal	Residential	8	\$440.00	\$56,350.00
	Commercial	10	\$945.00	\$104,642.00
Shed		20	\$1,362.80	\$108,072.13
Sign		14	\$700.00	\$37,950.00
Pool	Above Ground	6	\$390.00	\$14,950.00
	In Ground	6	\$540.00	\$152,500.00
Solid Fuel Burning Appliances/Chimneys		31	\$1,395.00	\$87,130.85
Demolition	Residential	8	\$1,065.00	\$32,700.00
	Commercial			
Certificates of Inspection (Periodic Inspections for Specified Use Groups)			40	\$2,465.00
Other Income			\$58.60	
Occupancy/Use Permits		84		
Electrical		329	\$35,028.28	
Gas		90	\$9,110.00	
Plumbing		140	\$11,888.00	
TOTALS		1278	\$197,026.55	\$27,156,110.87

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonita Weeks  
Inspector of Buildings

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

The Board of Health is required by state statutes and regulations to perform many important and crucial duties relative to the protection of public health, food safety, reporting and control of disease, promotion of sanitary living conditions, and protection of the environment from damage and pollution. If the enforcement of regulations may cause manifest injustice, the Board of Health would not conflict with the minimum standards of any applicable statute, code or regulation. We continue to prevent, promote and protect public health in the community.

Joshua Mathieu, Public Health Agent and Susan Hintze, Administrative Clerk, see to the day to day activities of the Board of Health. The office is located in the Town Hall and hours are Mondays from 8:30am to 7pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 to 5:00. The Board of Health consists of a three member board: Jayne Heede, Public Health Nurse, John Lukaskiewicz, Secretary, and Paul Benard, Chairman. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm in the Town Hall.

The Board of Health bought a medical waste disposal kiosk for the disposal of used needles. The needle can be put into puncture proof container and be deposited in the kiosk in the Town Hall free of charge for Palmer residents.

We participated in a Community Health Assessment for the Hampden County communities. The community health assessment identified unmet health needs that need to be addressed by local public health boards and other health initiatives within the region. This assessment studied Palmer's socioeconomic disparities, demographic highlights, key informant interviews, health care access, personal health & behavior risk survey results, social cohesion and focus group discussions.

The Town of Palmer is now a Mass in Motion community. Mass in Motion is a statewide movement that promotes opportunities for healthy eating and active living in the places people live, learn, work and play. We work with the community, schools, childcare centers, and businesses to create changes that make it easy for people to eat better and move more. We also help residents think differently about what they eat and how much they move so they can make better choices to feel healthy and live well.

As part of the Mass in Motion initiative a wellness leadership team was established which consists of the Health Agent, Asst. Town Manager, Town Planner, Conservation Agent, Recreation Director, Director of Public Works, Library Director, Council on Aging Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and Baystate Health. The wellness team has now made walking maps available, a completed bike ability assessment and is working on a complete streets policy, sidewalk inventory, and a corner store food assessment summary. We also hope to establish a community garden.

In October and April we organized and held Drug Take Back days and took in any unused and outdated medications. The 6 boxes of medications from October and the 5 boxes from the April collection were then transported by the Palmer Police Department to a local facility to be destroyed.

The Board issues licenses and inspects all food establishments under 105 CMR 590.000: State Sanitary Code Chapter X – Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments. The 102 licensed food establishments are inspected twice a year for facility cleanliness, food safety, food security, consumer protection and up-to-date certifications. All foodborne illness reports are immediately investigated.

The Massachusetts Sanitary Code, Chapter 11 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation provides detailed standards for safe and sanitary housing. All persons should be afforded a suitable housing environment. Inspections are done upon request for compliance or when a complaint is received. Housing inspections were done for more than 90 residences and correction orders were issued as necessary. The Board of Health also investigates all nuisances, unsanitary conditions, sources of filth, housing violations and causes of sickness within the town. Housing sanitary code violations of properties are addressed through the Housing Court system when necessary.

Sanitary sewage disposal is closely regulated to ensure the health and wellbeing of the community. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulates the surface disposal of sanitary sewage known as Title 5 of the State Environmental Code. Title 5 establishes minimum statewide standards for the design, use, siting and construction of septic systems. The Board of Health's role is to enforce the Title 5 regulations by reviewing preliminary plans for siting and design, witness percolation tests, act upon applications for permits to install, modify and repair septic systems, inspect septic installations, repairs and upgrades and order corrective measures when violations are found. To ensure proper septic system construction and handling of pump sewage the Board of Health requires annual permits for septage disposal installers and sewage haulers. This year 17 percolation tests were witnessed and we had 29 septic system installations/repairs.

The Board of Health issued the following permits:

1-Day Food	8
Bakery	6
Body Art Establishment	1
Body Art Practitioner	1
Deli	5
Food Establishment / Restaurant	57
Frozen Desert	16
Funeral Director	2
Milk	58
Mobile Food	5
Mobile Home Park	1
Motel / Cabins	2
Perc Test	17
Recreational Camp	3
Retail Food	23
Seasonal Food / Restaurant	3
Septic Hauler	13
Septic Installer	30



Septic Installation/Repair	29
Snack Racks	8
Swimming Pool / Hot Tub (Public)	4
Tanning	2
Tobacco	23
Trash Haulers	3
Trash Vehicles	26
Wells	10

The Massachusetts Bureau of Communicable Disease Control requires the Board of Health to conduct a disease surveillance follow-up investigation for all notifications of a confirmed or unconfirmed communicable disease event in the Town. Palmer is in the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network – MAVEN. MAVEN is a web based disease surveillance and case management system that enables the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to capture and transfer appropriate public health, laboratory and clinical data efficiently and securely over the internet in real-time. The following are the cases we responded to this year.

Babesiosis	2
Campylobacteriosis	1
Enterovirus	1
Hepatitis C (acute)	4
Hepatitis C (chronic)	23
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	2
Influenza	24
Lyme Disease	37
Pertussia	1
Salmonellosis	1
Streptococcus pneumonia	1
Varicella	1

Pamela Harris, as of April 1, 2016 started as the Animal Inspector. She investigates animal bites, possible exposure to rabies, issues quarantines as needed and conducts annual barn inspections. This year we had 20 reported animal bites.

We continue to develop and up-date our ALL-Hazards Emergency Dispensing and Shelter Plans. In the event of a natural disaster or a public health emergency we need to rely on our preparedness, plans, database of resources, equipment and personnel.

We are now a member of the Massachusetts Influenza Information System (MIIS). The MIIS allows us access to information in accordance to the complex immunization requirements to control vaccines for preventable diseases and to promote a healthier population.

We are members of the Hampden County Health Coalition. The Coalition coordinates and collaborates with public health entities to improve and safeguard the quality of life for our residents and plan for natural and man-made disasters. The Coalition has implemented a

Shared Public Health Nurse Assistance program with the Ludlow Public Health Nurse to address long-term unmet needs and service local public health gaps.

We are members of the Quaboag Regional Emergency Planning Committee. The REPC is committed to preserving the community and its resources by maintaining a Regional Hazardous Materials Plan to minimize the risk to public safety, health and property damage.

We have enacted regulations for private wells. The purpose of private well regulation is to provide for the protection of the public health, safety welfare and the environment by, among other things, requiring the proper siting, construction and testing of private wells.

The Board and staff acknowledge and appreciate the assistance and cooperation of all Town Boards, Departments, Commissions and Community Organizations.

Respectfully Submitted

Palmer Board of Health

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Palmer Community Development Department is located in the Town Administration Building at 4417 Main Street Palmer. The office is open Monday 8:30am to 7:30pm and Tuesday – Thursday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The Community Development Department was established in 1991 for the purpose of administering a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the Town of Palmer. Over the years the department has expanded its services by becoming a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, and by applying for and receiving grants from other agencies/programs. The Community Development Director also provides technical assistance to the Palmer Redevelopment Authority.

### **Community Development Block Grant Program**

The Community Development Block Grant Program is funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. The primary objective of the statute is “... *to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low – moderate income persons.*”

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development which implements the program for the Commonwealth encourages: programs which develop and preserve affordable housing; planning toward both resource protection and sustainable economic activity; downtown revitalization integral to community development; and community-based planning that assesses needs and identifies strategies for addressing those needs. Projects eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program include: planning; housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing; economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs; efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns; infrastructure; construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and public social services.

During FY2016 the following grant applications were submitted:

\$897,580	FY16 Community Development Block Grant
\$ 10,000	Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Program
\$ 30,000	MassDevelopment Technical Assistance
<b>\$937,580</b>	<b>Total value grant applications submitted</b>

During FY2016 the following grants were awarded:

\$ 452,420	FY15 Community Development Block Grant
\$ 807,862	FY16 Community Development Block Grant
\$ 30,000	MassDevelopment Technical Assistance
<b>\$1,290,282</b>	<b>Total grants awarded</b>

During FY16 the Community Development Department expended the following funds:

\$ 82,056	Completed the rehabilitation of 6 substandard housing units, providing safe, decent and affordable housing for 7 residents
\$ 84,758	Microenterprise business planning, consulting and loans in the Quaboag Valley
\$ 88,849	Assistance to one (1) For-Profit Businesses within the Quaboag Valley who will create 4 full time equivalent jobs
\$ 26,488	2032 Main Street Feasibility Study and RFP
\$ 99,679	Replacement of High Street water main in the Village of Bondsville
\$ 54,883	Provision of Domestic Violence Services, benefiting 95 survivors
\$ 62,011	General grant administration
\$ 643,625	Rehabilitation of Endelson Playground in Bondsville
<b>\$1,142,349</b>	<b>Total Department Expenditures</b>

Respectfully submitted by:  
Alice Davey,  
Community Development Director

## **COUNCIL ON AGING**

The mission of the Palmer Council on Aging/Senior Center is to identify the total needs of the senior population, to promote and encourage new and existing activities, to provide services and education to enhance the quality of life for elders and to assist elders to age with dignity and independence.

Senior Center staff is obliged to create an atmosphere that acknowledges the value of human life, affirms the dignity and self-worth of the older adult participant, and maintains a climate of respect, trust and support. Within this atmosphere, the staff creates opportunities for older adults to apply their wisdom, experience and insight and to exercise their skills.

### **Council on Aging Board Members**

Genevieve Bates, Chairperson

Ernie Charland, 1st Vice Chair

Linda Lamay, Secretary

Mary Hubert, 2nd Vice Chair

Peggy Corriveau

Betty Koss

Gloria Brouillette

Ruth Manning

Cathy Plouffe

Sharon Lemieux

The Council on Aging provided a broad range of services to Palmer's 60+ population during the year July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016. The 2010 Census shows an increase of 133 citizens over the age of 60 living in Palmer. Of the 2,496 Senior Citizen's of Palmer, approximately 1,200 unduplicated elders received a direct service from the Council on Aging. Twelve issues of the Senior Center Newsletter were printed and 800 per month were distributed.

To care for the physical needs of our 60+ population, cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings are available weekly with Ruth Amador, RN, Wing Hospital, audiology screenings, eye care, foot care, massage therapy, reflexology, exercise programs, line dancing & balance classes, UMass nursing students program on community health, Healthy Eating Program, Matter of Balance Program, etc. were provided at the Palmer Senior Center. To meet the social needs we have card playing, bingo, chess, dominoes, Wii games, movies, cribbage, night time pitch, Bridge, Red Sox night, Games Night, day time pitch league, painting class, crafts class, pool playing, once monthly breakfast, Depot Group, etc. We held a celebration for every holiday and our Annual 90+ Birthday Party and Annual 4th of July Cookout at Pulaski Park and Christmas Party at Amvets.

Outreach continues to be much needed and utilized service to the elders of Palmer. There were 526 unduplicated seniors who were served through outreach. A total of 1,523 duplicated services including but not limited to home & office consultation, phone consultation, fuel assistance, knox boxes, housing, family support, insurance, nutrition, cell phone, medical, homecare, nursing home, elder abuse, utilities, support services, etc. The Outreach Coordinator was S.H.I.N.E. certified and helped 78 elders with this program.

We also provide a free S.H.I.N.E. Counselor from the Springfield Agency twice a month and Lawyer once monthly. AARP sponsored Income Tax Preparation from February thru April 15th. There are various monthly programs available on issues facing seniors. Medical equipment was available to be loaned at no charge as needed and eighty eight individuals took advantage of this

program. Wing Memorial Hospital provided the senior center with a nurse for 6 hours a week and she provided 359 services for 91 seniors. The Arthritis Foundation certified instructor held Arthritis & Tai Chi exercise class two days a week. Scantic Valley YMCA provided instructors Mon., & Wed. for strength training classes. MCOA provided funding for a Falls Prevention Exercise Class held 2 times a week. Lifecare of Wilbraham provided two instructors for Tai Chi class once a week. 147 seniors took advantage of the exercise programs. We started an RUOK program with seniors who are homebound being contacted once a week to check on them and see if they need anything.

A new Breakfast Program started in FY16. We provide breakfast every Tuesday and Thursday morning and served 1,392 meals since it started. We plan to continue to have breakfast available as long as we have the staff to support it. A congregate meal program was held at the Palmer Senior Center, sponsored through Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. and the Council on Aging providing 3,422 Congregate Meals. The Council on Aging continues to provide supportive services to homebound elders. In Home Meals provided 73 frail elders with a hot meal five days a week, totaling 13,265 meals. In and Out of Town Van Transportation: 168 unduplicated passengers, including 15 passengers under 60 utilized this service. We provided a total of 4,712 rides. We have 2 lift-equipped vans in operation Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. We have four volunteers who provide rides for medical appointments when our vans are fully booked. We provided 79 rides this year.

1,416 Brown Bags were distributed to 118 seniors as part of the Western MA Food Bank Program for Seniors. Thirty seniors received fresh vegetables from the Farmshare Program, part of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture at no cost. They received \$10.00 per week worth of fresh vegetables for 10 weeks provided by Pomeroy's Vegetable Farm of East Longmeadow. We distributed 30 Farmers Market Coupons worth \$25.00.

Tax Assistance, transportation, information and referrals, home delivered and congregate meals were also available to those under age 60 who are disabled. We allow those under 60 years to attend our social programs and exercise classes. We had 39 non senior participants.

There were 91 deaths of persons over the age of 60.

We had 40 volunteers with a total of 2,644 volunteer hours donated to the Senior Center. Value \$26,445.00 worth of service. THANK YOU!!

A total of \$46,486.00 was received in grant monies during the FY16 year for various uses.

I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and the Council on Aging Board Members for all the work that they do all year. They are very dedicated and caring people who strive to provide the best services for our elders in Palmer.

I would also like to thank The Friends of the Palmer Senior Center for their hard work and dedication to the seniors of Palmer. They give very generously to the Palmer Senior Center to fund programs and purchase items needed for the center. They gave a total of \$1,508.32 to the Council on Aging in FY16 THANK YOU!! You are a wonderful group of people!!

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Pincine  
Executive Director

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE**

Under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Commonwealth provides a needs-based means tested program of financial aid and medical assistance for low – income veterans and their dependents, through the Department of Veterans' Services administered by veteran's service agents throughout the state. The Veterans' Services Office works closely with the Senior Center, Shine Officer and other state agencies to ensure that elderly and disable Veterans are aware of all benefits that are available to them not just Veteran Benefits to included lower electric bill rate, government SNAP program, government cell phones, government health insurance, etc.

Retired veterans, widows or widowers, and veterans on Social Security Disability Income account for 75.5% of the Chapter 115 caseload for the town of Palmer this percentage is down from last year due to the death of several elderly veterans or their widows but the actual case files have decreased only by one with several new veterans/widows to replace the deceased case files. These Veterans are permanent Chapter 115 recipients and can only be removed from the program by moving to another town, an increase in income or death.

Veterans waiting a decision on their Social Security Disability (SSDI) Claims make up 13.5% of the towns Chapter 115 recipients and increase of 6% from last year. These Veterans receive full Chapter 115 benefits until their Disability Claims are approved. They are responsible for reimbursing the Town for their services with the retroactive check they receive from SSDI. Depending on the size of the award letter for SSDI the Veteran is either removed from Chapter 115 or the Veterans benefits are greatly reduced.

Unemployed veterans make up the last 11% of this office Chapter 115 benefit case files increase of 1% from last year. These veterans have already used up their unemployment benefits and would be homeless if they weren't on Chapter 115. The Veteran's Service Office works with the veteran and the Labor and Workforce Development Department of Career Services to help secure employment.

Over all case files have increased this year by over 10% and will keep increasing with our aging population.

While the main mission of the Veteran's Service Officers is to administer Chapter 115 benefits, and make the veterans aware of other state veterans' benefits such as bonuses for wartime service and the state annuity for 100% disable veterans. This office also helps Veterans with their Federal Veterans benefits to include enrolled in the Federal Veterans Administration Health System, apply for VA pensions and disability compensation, how to use their GI Bill Benefits, helping newly discharged Veterans to make the transition back to civilian life and ensuring these Veterans know about and understand all the benefits available to them both by the State of Massachusetts and the Federal government.

DEBORAH A.SHILAIKIS  
Veterans' Agent  
Town of Palmer

## **PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The Palmer Housing Authority office and adjacent development known as Laurel Manor, is located at 13 Fletcher Street. The complex was first occupied in January of 1971. Laurel Manor consists of 48 one bedroom units. The Palmer Housing Authority operates under the State Chapter 667 Elderly/Handicapped Program. All rules and regulations are promulgated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, adopted by the Palmer Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and carried out by the housing authority staff. The staff consists of one part time Executive Director and one part time maintenance person.

Applications can be obtained at the office on 13 Fletcher Street or upon request. Currently applicants need to be 60 years of age or be an eligible handicapped/disabled person. A preference is given to local residents and local veterans 60 years of age. The current net income for eligibility is \$45,500 for one person and \$52,000 for two persons. As units become available they are filled from the waiting list of eligible applicants.

The Board of Commissioners consists of 4 members that are appointed by the Town Manager and one state appointed member. The Commissioners meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 P.M., in the community room at 13 Fletcher Street, to conduct the authority business.

The goal of the Board of Commissioners is to maintain the properties and to continue to provide clean, safe and affordable housing to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald W. Lemanski, Chairperson  
Mildred Jasak, Vice Chairperson  
Margaret Higgins, Treasurer  
Russell Webb, Assistant Treasurer  
Victoria Miner, State Appointee



## **LICENSE COMMISSION**

The following is a summary of the licenses and fees collected for the 2015-2016 year.

Type	#	Fee	Total
All Alcoholic Beverage License			
Inn Holder	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Club	5	\$800.00	\$4,000.00
Retail Package Store	4	\$665.00	\$2,660.00
Seasonal	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Restaurant	12	\$800.00	\$9,600.00
Wine and Malt Beverage License			
Retail Package Store	5	\$520.00	\$2,600.00
Restaurant	3	\$520.00	\$1,560.00
One Day Licenses	6	\$50.00	\$300.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman  
Robert P. Frydryk  
Andrew Golas  
Mary Salzmann  
Michael Magiera

## ASSESSORS

### LOCAL EXPENDITURES

Appropriations	\$35,606,617.00
Offsets	\$127,497.00
Tax Title	\$0.00
Snow & Ice Deficits	\$0.00
State & County Charges	\$549,543.00
Overlay	\$182,231.95

<b>TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>\$36,465,888.95</b>
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### ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$13,060,411.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$4,800,000.00
Other Available Funds	\$271,298.00
Free Cash	\$639,487.00

<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$18,771,196.00</b>
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<b>NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>\$17,694,692.95</b>
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**NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED / TOTAL VALUATION = TAX RATE FY2016**

<b>\$17,694,692.95</b>	/	<b>\$886,063,743.00</b>	=	<b>\$19.97</b>
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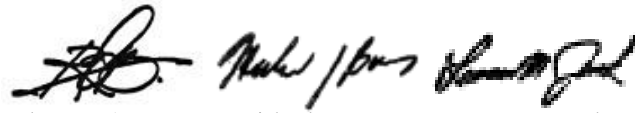
### CLASSIFIED PERCENTAGES

	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS
RESIDENTIAL	82.4271%	\$14,585,217.61
OPEN SPACE	0.00%	\$0.00
COMMERCIAL	7.0138%	\$1,241,074.95
INDUSTRIAL	4.6236%	\$818,132.96
PERSONAL PROPERTY	5.9355%	\$1,050,267.43
	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$17,694,692.95</b>

## VALUATION BY CLASS

RESIDENTIAL	\$730,356,415.00
OPEN SPACE	\$ 0.00
COMMERCIAL	\$ 62,146,968.00
INDUSTRIAL	\$ 40,968,100.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$ 52,592,260.00
<b>TOTAL VALUATION</b>	<b>\$886,063,743.00</b>

On behalf of The Board of Assessors,  
Respectfully submitted by Robert W. A. Leroux, Principal Assessor



Robert W. A. Leroux   Michael J. Burns   Lawrence M. Jasak

## TAX COLLECTOR

### Schedule of Outstanding Receivables as of June 30, 2016

#### Real Estate Taxes

Levy of 2016	532,642.67
Levy of 2015	7,711.37
Levy of 2014	5,479.40
Levy of 2013	4,272.20
Prior Years	37,771.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$587,876.93</b>

#### Personal Property Taxes

Levy of 2016	47,353.64
Levy of 2015	3,938.52
Levy of 2014	1,675.25
Levy of 2013	4,369.90
Prior Years	37,747.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95,084.75</b>

#### Motor Vehicle Excise

Levy of 2016	196,013.27
Levy of 2015	41,154.70
Levy of 2014	16,983.74
Levy of 2013	11,412.88
Prior Years	65,526.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$331,091.07</b>

**UTILITY BILLING Charges**

Sewer	500,538.27
Utility Liens Added to Taxes	37,601.92

**Special Assessments Receivable**

Committed interest added to taxes	5,254.04
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$543,394.23</b>
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<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,557,446.98</b>
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**PARKING CLERK****Fiscal Year 2016**

26 tickets = \$ 1,220.00    PAID IN FINES

Respectfully submitted by,

Carolyn I Baldyga  
Town Collector/ Assistant Treasurer

**TREASURER****BANK BALANCES****June 30, 2016**

<u>Financial Institution</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Bartholomew	588,060.68
Belmont Savings	267,177.37
Century Bank	1,103,095.81
Country Bank	4,403,586.49
Eastern Bank	7,091.70
Monson Savings	420,729.64
North Brookfield Savings	1,053,353.71
Peoples Bank	207,940.49
Chicopee Savings Bank	500,180.82
Peoples United Bank	894,343.72
Unibank	2,011,830.22
United Bank	272,647.40

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
111	Town Council	Stipend	-	8,400.00	-	8,400.00	8,397.00	3.00	-	3.00
		Expenditures	-	2,100.00	115.00	2,215.00	2,214.16	0.84	-	0.84
			-	10,500.00	115.00	10,615.00	10,611.16	3.84	-	3.84
123	Town Manager	Salaries	-	181,164.00	366.16	181,530.16	181,511.18	18.98	-	18.98
		Expenditures	1,129.58	57,800.00	7,465.23	65,265.23	64,630.04	635.19	522.35	112.84
			1,129.58	238,964.00	7,831.39	246,795.39	246,141.22	654.17	522.35	131.82
130	Audit	Expenditures	-	22,000.00	-	22,000.00	21,500.00	500.00	-	500.00
132	Reserve	Transfers	-	35,000.00	(20,000.00)	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	-	15,000.00
134	Actuarial	Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
135	Accountant	Salaries	-	91,826.00	-	91,826.00	89,214.24	2,611.76	-	2,611.76
		Expenses	-	1,230.00	-	1,230.00	521.45	708.55	177.98	530.57
			-	93,056.00	-	93,056.00	89,735.69	3,320.31	177.98	3,142.33
137	Central Purch.	Expenses	-	300,600.00	(60,747.63)	239,852.37	200,415.00	39,437.37	180.98	39,256.39
141	Assessors	Salaries	-	89,933.00	(4,000.00)	85,933.00	80,670.66	5,262.34	-	5,262.34
		Expenses	-	10,435.00	4,000.00	14,435.00	6,721.56	7,713.44	4,500.00	3,213.44
		Revaluation	13,700.00	30,000.00	13,700.00	43,700.00	7,500.00	36,200.00	22,500.00	13,700.00
			13,700.00	130,368.00	13,700.00	144,068.00	94,892.22	49,175.78	27,000.00	22,175.78
145	Treasurer	Salaries	-	63,138.00	-	63,138.00	58,064.14	5,073.86	-	5,073.86
		Expenses		10,500.00	-	10,500.00	5,161.49	5,338.51	-	5,338.51
	Tax Title	Expenses	147,731.18	12,000.00	147,731.18	159,731.18	31,187.96	128,543.22	128,543.22	-
			147,731.18	85,638.00	147,731.18	233,369.18	94,413.59	138,955.59	128,543.22	10,412.37

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
146	Collector	Salaries	-	78,086.00	-	78,086.00	77,955.48	130.52	-	130.52
		Expenses		12,815.00	-	12,815.00	8,744.29	4,070.71	-	4,070.71
	Tax Title	Expenses	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	2,953.29	46.71	-	46.71
			-	93,901.00	-	93,901.00	89,653.06	4,247.94	-	4,247.94
								-		
151	Laws & Claims	Salaries	-	40,000.00	(6,950.00)	33,050.00	32,910.30	139.70	-	139.70
		Contract	-	11,000.00	61,003.97	72,003.97	71,949.75	54.22	-	54.22
			-	51,000.00	54,053.97	105,053.97	104,860.05	193.92	-	193.92
155	Computer Maint.	Expenses	-	69,425.00	11,029.23	80,454.23	79,040.53	1,413.70	1,093.63	320.07
161	Town Clerk	Salaries	-	84,225.00	(1,465.28)	82,759.72	79,119.58	3,640.14	-	3,640.14
		Expenses	-	1,350.00	1,672.00	3,022.00	2,986.59	35.41	-	35.41
			-	85,575.00	206.72	85,781.72	82,106.17	3,675.55	-	3,675.55
162	Elections & Reg	Salaries	-	14,600.00	-	14,600.00	11,268.18	3,331.82	-	3,331.82
		Expenses	1,350.00	12,900.00	1,143.28	14,043.28	8,014.13	6,029.15	1,425.00	4,604.15
			1,350.00	27,500.00	1,143.28	28,643.28	19,282.31	9,360.97	1,425.00	7,935.97
171	Conservation	Salaries	-	26,525.00	1,276.31	27,801.31	27,801.31	-	-	-
		Expenses	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,441.64	58.36	-	58.36
			-	28,025.00	1,276.31	29,301.31	29,242.95	58.36	-	58.36
175	Planning Board	Salaries	-	98,720.00	990.00	99,710.00	99,582.18	127.82	-	127.82
		Expenses	-	4,700.00	(990.00)	3,710.00	3,059.16	650.84	-	650.84
			-	103,420.00	-	103,420.00	102,641.34	778.66	-	778.66
192	Town Building	Custodian	-	10,090.00	-	10,090.00	9,812.05	277.95	-	277.95
		Expenses	-	55,000.00	1,144.96	56,144.96	39,275.98	16,868.98	5,389.99	11,478.99
			-	65,090.00	1,144.96	66,234.96	49,088.03	17,146.93	5,389.99	11,756.94

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
193	Memorial Hall	Custodian	-	10,600.00	-	10,600.00	9,862.63	737.37	-	737.37
		Expenses	-	15,410.00	1,500.00	16,910.00	15,216.90	1,693.10	-	1,693.10
		Bldg. Maint.	-	2,300.00	(1,500.00)	800.00	491.07	308.93	-	308.93
			-	28,310.00	-	28,310.00	25,570.60	2,739.40	-	2,739.40
195	Town Reports	Expenditures	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	1,282.50	717.50	-	717.50
210	Police	Salaries	-	2,033,816.00	-	2,033,816.00	1,906,640.66	127,175.34	-	127,175.34
		Expenses	-	54,400.00	(600.00)	53,800.00	53,464.34	335.66	-	335.66
		Contract Serv.	-	61,900.00	400.00	62,300.00	62,218.85	81.15	-	81.15
		Utilities	-	300.00	200.00	500.00	416.90	83.10	-	83.10
		Cruisers	-	81,500.00	-	81,500.00	67,943.35	13,556.65	3,954.00	9,602.65
			-	2,231,916.00	-	2,231,916.00	2,090,684.10	141,231.90	3,954.00	137,277.90
215	Police Station	Salaries	-	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	24,955.56	5,044.44	-	5,044.44
		Expenses	19,406.58	64,037.00	-	83,443.58	69,458.75	13,984.83	-	13,984.83
			19,406.58	94,037.00	-	113,443.58	94,414.31	19,029.27	-	19,029.27
220	Forest Warden	Salaries	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	-	-
		Expenses	-	100.00	-	100.00	-	100.00	-	100.00
			-	3,100.00	-	3,100.00	3,000.00	100.00	-	100.00
241	Building Inspec.	Salaries	-	80,460.00	(6,000.00)	74,460.00	73,511.07	948.93	-	948.93
		Expenses	-	735.00	6,000.00	6,735.00	4,037.86	2,697.14	2,658.27	38.87
			-	81,195.00	-	81,195.00	77,548.93	3,646.07	2,658.27	987.80
244	Sealer	Salaries	-	2,750.00	1.00	2,751.00	2,750.04	0.96	-	0.96
		Expenses	-	250.00	-	250.00	96.17	153.83	-	153.83
			-	3,000.00	1.00	3,001.00	2,846.21	154.79	-	154.79

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
291	Emergency Mgmt	Salaries	-	4,500.00	-	4,500.00	4,500.00	-	-	-
		Expenditures	784.03	1,000.00	434.03	1,434.03	-	1,434.03	-	1,434.03
			784.03	5,500.00	434.03	5,934.03	4,500.00	1,434.03	-	1,434.03
292	Dog Officer	Salaries	1,867.16	39,520.00	2,067.16	41,587.16	41,585.27	1.89	-	1.89
		Expenses	968.64	7,720.00	1,118.64	8,838.64	8,819.31	19.33	-	19.33
			2,835.80	47,240.00	3,185.80	50,425.80	50,404.58	21.22	-	21.22
293	Animal Insp.	Salaries	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	-	-
294	Forestry	Expenses	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	20,382.27	4,617.73	-	4,617.73
310	Schools	Salaries	1,796,268.42	11,630,191.00	(751,597.83)	12,674,861.59	10,938,292.62	1,736,568.97	1,736,568.97	-
		Expenses	168,738.07	3,640,460.00	751,597.83	4,560,795.90	4,453,819.36	106,976.54	106,976.54	(0.00)
			1,965,006.49	15,270,651.00	-	17,235,657.49	15,392,111.98	1,843,545.51	1,843,545.51	(0.00)
320	Pathfinder	Assessment	-	1,798,031.00	-	1,798,031.00	1,782,538.00	15,493.00	-	15,493.00
423	Snow & Ice	Overtime	-	32,000.00	-	32,000.00	36,577.31	(4,577.31)	-	(4,577.31)
		Supplies	-	178,000.00	-	178,000.00	205,567.79	(27,567.79)	-	(27,567.79)
			-	210,000.00	-	210,000.00	242,145.10	(32,145.10)	-	(32,145.10)
424	Street Lights	Expenses	-	117,000.00	23,200.00	140,200.00	134,979.75	5,220.25	-	5,220.25
425	Railroad Crossing	Expenses	-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00
433	Waste Removal	Expenses	-	20,600.00	2,500.00	23,100.00	22,160.75	939.25	-	939.25
435	Ground Water	Expenses	16,890.00	17,200.00	1,000.00	35,090.00	35,065.00	25.00	-	25.00



**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
490	Public Works	Salaries	-	840,246.00	(30,200.00)	810,046.00	794,831.42	15,214.58	-	15,214.58
		Admin. Exp.	1,575.00	65,500.00	(2,000.00)	65,075.00	55,656.98	9,418.02	-	9,418.02
		Maint. Exp.	156.25	156,280.00	1,400.00	157,836.25	156,560.06	1,276.19	-	1,276.19
		Utilities	87.04	17,000.00	2,000.00	19,087.04	18,302.97	784.07	-	784.07
		Capital	-	6,000.00	2,100.00	8,100.00	8,100.00	-	-	-
			1,818.29	1,085,026.00	(26,700.00)	1,060,144.29	1,033,451.43	26,692.86	-	26,692.86
491	Other Capital	Capital	-	43,000.00	-	43,000.00	42,841.39	158.61	-	158.61
510	BOH	Salaries	-	62,370.00	50.00	62,420.00	62,389.27	30.73	-	30.73
		Expenses	-	9,295.00	-	9,295.00	7,700.35	1,594.65	217.16	1,377.49
			-	71,665.00	50.00	71,715.00	70,089.62	1,625.38	217.16	1,408.22
523	Human Services	Expenses	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	1,500.00	500.00	500.00	-
541	COA	Salaries	-	146,610.00	250.00	146,860.00	141,943.33	4,916.67	-	4,916.67
		Expenses	-	2,460.00	-	2,460.00	2,365.89	94.11	-	94.11
			-	149,070.00	250.00	149,320.00	144,309.22	5,010.78	-	5,010.78
543	Veterans	Salaries	-	28,900.00	-	28,900.00	25,947.56	2,952.44	-	2,952.44
		Expenses	-	1,500.00	50.00	1,550.00	1,537.29	12.71	-	12.71
		Misc. & Ben.	-	330,000.00	-	330,000.00	274,222.64	55,777.36	-	55,777.36
			-	360,400.00	50.00	360,450.00	301,707.49	58,742.51	-	58,742.51
610	Library	Salaries	-	454,385.00	(5,380.00)	449,005.00	448,951.85	53.15	-	53.15
		Expenses	-	273,314.00	5,380.00	278,694.00	278,694.00	-	-	-
			-	727,699.00	-	727,699.00	727,645.85	53.15	-	53.15
630	Recreation	Salaries	-	22,000.00	-	22,000.00	15,740.57	6,259.43	-	6,259.43
		Expenses	1,250.00	10,000.00	-	11,250.00	6,360.00	4,890.00	-	4,890.00
			1,250.00	32,000.00	-	33,250.00	22,100.57	11,149.43	-	11,149.43

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
692	Memorial Day	Expenses	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	2,378.79	621.21	-	621.21
710	Debt Principal		-	1,027,937.00	-	1,027,937.00	1,015,336.27	12,600.73	-	12,600.73
751	Debt Interest		-	389,844.00	-	389,844.00	384,241.09	5,602.91	-	5,602.91
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	-	1,147,691.00	-	1,147,691.00	1,133,282.00	14,409.00	-	14,409.00
913	Unemployment		-	40,000.00	-	40,000.00	9,149.56	30,850.44	-	30,850.44
914	Group Health Ins		92,668.11	4,651,874.00	-	4,744,542.11	4,601,612.02	142,930.09	-	142,930.09
915	Group Life Ins.		-	13,250.00	(350.00)	12,900.00	12,138.00	762.00	-	762.00
919	Medicare		-	235,000.00	-	235,000.00	218,116.04	16,883.96	-	16,883.96
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	-	415,000.00	6,425.35	421,425.35	421,411.69	13.66	-	13.66
950	Stabilization Fund	CIP	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	-	-	-
970	Transfers Out	Misc.	-	-	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	-	-	-
<b>Total General</b>			2,264,570.06	31,791,298.00	327,530.59	34,215,868.06	31,596,068.43	2,619,799.63	2,015,208.09	604,591.54

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
		Chery Sheet Assessments	-	-	-	549,543.00	633,380.00	(83,837.00)	-	
		Intergovernmental - MWPAT								
		Adj	-	-	-	-	155,586.69	(155,586.69)	-	
		Encumbrance								
		Adj	-	-	2,264,570.06	-	-	-	-	
		Transfer to Stabilizaation	-	-	(100,000.00)	-	-	-	-	
		Transfer Out (to OPEB Trust)	-	-	(60,000.00)	-	-	-	-	
		Other								
		Transfers	-	-	(7,530.59)	-	-	-	-	
		Adjusted W/S Total	2,264,570.06	31,791,298.00	2,424,570.06	34,765,411.06	32,385,035.12	2,380,375.94	2,015,208.09	
		MUNIS /								
		Report	2,264,570.06	31,791,298.00	2,424,570.06	34,765,411.06	32,385,035.12	2,380,375.94	2,015,208.09	
		Difference	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	
			OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	
443	WWTP	Salaries	-	625,553.00	(8,000.00)	617,553.00	579,189.28	38,363.72	-	38,363.72
		Expenses	55,378.00	900,700.00	63,378.00	964,078.00	915,012.91	49,065.09	429.00	48,636.09
		Sewer Maint	-	105,000.00	(6,369.50)	98,630.50	90,857.80	7,772.70	-	7,772.70
		Capital	8,070.00	270,000.00	108,070.00	378,070.00	174,077.76	203,992.24	120,000.00	83,992.24
		Admin Alloc	-	-	-	-	94,461.00	(94,461.00)	-	(94,461.00)
			63,448.00	1,901,253.00	157,078.50	2,058,331.50	1,853,598.75	204,732.75	120,429.00	84,303.75
710	Debt Principal		-	390,337.00	6,369.50	396,706.50	276,705.77	120,000.73	120,000.00	0.73
751	Debt Interest		-	78,690.00	-	78,690.00	78,689.43	0.57	-	0.57
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	-	116,471.00	-	116,471.00	115,009.00	1,462.00	-	1,462.00
913	Unemployment		-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00
914	Group Health Ins		8,012.62	128,366.00	8,012.62	136,378.62	104,972.57	31,406.05	-	31,406.05
915	Group Life Ins.		-	318.00	-	318.00	273.00	45.00	-	45.00

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY16 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2015	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2017	Ending Balance
919	Medicare		-	8,049.00	-	8,049.00	7,386.76	662.24	-	662.24
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	-	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	-	-
<b>Total WWTP</b>			71,460.62	2,644,534.00	171,460.62	2,815,994.62	2,456,635.28	359,359.34	240,429.00	118,930.34
Adjusted W/S Total MUNIS / Report			71,460.62	2,644,534.00	171,460.62	2,815,994.62	2,456,635.28	359,359.34	240,429.00	
Difference			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	
<b>Total General + WWTP Budget</b>			2,336,030.68	34,435,832.00	498,991.21	37,031,862.68	34,052,703.71	2,979,158.97	2,255,637.09	723,521.88
GF: Chery Sheet Assessments			-	-	-	549,543.00	633,380.00	(83,837.00)	-	
GF: Intergovernmental - MWPAT Adj			-	-	-	-	155,586.69	(155,586.69)	-	
GF: Encumbrance Adj			-	-	2,336,030.68	-	-	-	-	
GF: Transfer to Stabilizaation			-	-	(100,000.00)	-	-	-	-	
GF: Transfer Out (to OPEB Trust)			-	-	(60,000.00)	-	-	-	-	
GF: Other Transfers			-	-	(7,530.59)	-	-	-	-	
WWTP: Encumbrance Adj			-	-	(71,460.62)	-	-	-	-	
Adjusted W/S Total MUNIS / Report			2,336,030.68	34,435,832.00	2,596,030.68	37,581,405.68	34,841,670.40	2,739,735.28	2,255,637.09	
Difference			-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	

# **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the Palmer Police Department answered approximately 19,937 calls for service, which included 1,490 medical related calls. From these calls, 2,731 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 1,097 individuals were arrested / summoned / taken into custody. More than 2,101 traffic citations were issued for 2,893 violations. There were 316 traffic crashes, involving 624 operators/occupants, resulting in injuries to 125 individuals. There was one fatal crash reported during this period. A complete statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 19 full time and 4 part time police officers, in addition to 7 full time and 4 part time civilian members.

The department received the following grants during this reporting period:

Traffic Enforcement Grant (Highway Safety Division) - \$10,000 was awarded to target speed, seat belt, red light, drunk driving and other violations in the following HSD mobilizations: Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, Distracted Driving and Click It or Ticket.

9-1-1 Training Grant (State 911 Department) - \$27,617 was awarded. Through this program, governmental entities hosting primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are eligible to receive reimbursement for training related costs associated with the 9-1-1 system. Awards are based on a rounded formula of 9-1-1 calls received and population served.

PSAP Support and Incentive Grant (State 911 Department) - \$37,776 awarded. The purpose of the State 911 Department Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) Support and Incentive Grant is to assist PSAPs and regional emergency centers in providing enhanced 911 services and to encourage the development of regional PSAPs, regional secondary PSAPs and regional emergency communication centers.

I would like to thank members of our community for their continued support and encouragement, and the members of the Police Department for their service and dedication to our community. I would also like to thank Town Council President Barbara Barry and all of the council members for their ongoing support and dedication, and a special thank you to Town Manager Charles Blanchard, for his continued assistance and support.

I am also grateful to the town's fire departments and fire chiefs, DPW Director Gerry Skowronek, Assistant Director Rudy Pisarczyk and their staff, and all of the other town officials and staff members for their assistance and cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

John J. Janulewicz  
Interim Chief of Police

**OFFENSES (IBR) BY MONTH – FY 2016**

<b>OFFENSE (IBR)</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
ARSON		1								1		1	3
ASSAULT AGGRAVATED	8	3	2	3	2	3	4	2	12		8	7	54
ASSAULT SIMPLE	11	8	11	15	7	8	7	15	21	18	15	12	148
BAD CHECKS						1						1	2
BURGLARY/BREAKING AND ENTERING	22	9		14	5	8	6	8	8	10	3	14	107
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	2	4		1	1	2	14	1	1			1	27
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER						1		2				1	4
DESTRUCTIN / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	13	4	3	11	2	6	7	21	10	12	12	8	109
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	6	11	9	20	3	3	7	21	16	15	14	22	147
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	17	6	12	15	8	4	12	10	14	16	10	15	139
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	4	15	14	12	12	10	15	17	20	21	15	11	166
DRUNKENNESS (PROTECTIVE CUSTODY)	10	9	7	4	3	4	4	9	5	6	9	5	75
EXTORTION / BLACKMAIL							1		1				2
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	3			1		4	1	1	1		2	3	16
FAMILY OFFENSES, NON-VIOLENT		1		3	1		3			1			9
FORCIBLE FONDLING									1	1			2
FORCIBLE RAPE			1	1	1				2			2	7
IMPERSONATION	2	2	1				2		1				8
INTIMIDATION	3	1	2	1	3		2	5	5	5	5	7	39
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	6	1	2	3	6		2	2	4	5	3	8	42
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0	1	2	1				1		1			6
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL	2						1			3			6
PROSTITUTION							4						4
PURSE SNATCHING											1		1
ROBBERY				1		1		1	3				6
SHOPLIFTING	5	2	4	2	2		5	4		1	5	4	34
STATUTORY RAPE						2							2
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	2	2	1		2		1	7	2		1	2	20
THEFT FROM BUILDING	1	1	1		2	1	2	2		2	2	1	15
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE		1	2	7	3	12	11	11	4	4	3	9	67
THEFT OF MV PARTS / ACCESSORIES		1						1					2
ALL OTHER LARCENY	10	6	4	7	4	7	9	5	4	5	3	8	72
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	103	118	106	74	51	53	71	83	101	86	90	97	1033
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	3	1	1	3	3	4		2	3	5	4	11	40
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	6	1	1	3	1		3	1	6			1	23
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	34	7	22	30	21	25	34	33	32	27	14	15	294
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>2731</b>

**PRIMARY ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR) BY MONTH – FY 2016**

ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR)	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
ARSON			1								1		2
ASSAULT AGGRAVATED	4	1	1	2	1		3		6	4	5	2	29
ASSAULT SIMPLE	5	6	9	6	3	6	3	9	15	6	9	7	84
BAD CHECKS												1	1
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	2			1	2		1	1				2	9
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	1	1				1	2	1					6
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER												1	1
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	2					1	1	2	2		2		10
DISORDERLY CONDUCT		4	2	7	2	1	2	3	6	6	3	9	45
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	14	6	11	13	8	3	10	10	12	15	8	13	123
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	2	9	6	4	11	8	4	3	10	13	3	3	76
DRUNKENNESS (PROTECTIVE CUSTODY)	11	9	7	4	3	5	4	10	6	7	10	4	80
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	1					3		1					5
FAMILY OFFENSES NON-VIOLENT				1			1			1			3
FORCIBLE FONDLING									1				1
IMPERSONATION	1												1
INTIMIDATION			1		1				2	1		1	6
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	6			1	4			3	1	1		4	20
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL							1						1
PROSTITUTION								4					4
ROBBERY				1				1					2
SHOPLIFTING	3	2	4	1	3		5	4			4	2	28
STATUTORY RAPE							1						1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES		2	1		2			5	1				11
THEFT FROM BUILDING						1	1						2
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE								2				1	3
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE									1				1
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	28	51	42	14	17	21	27	28	28	23	39	26	344
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	2		1		1	3	1		2	3	3		16
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS				1					2			1	4
ALL OTHER LARCENY	2		1	3	1			3	1				11
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	19	5	11	13	15	18	19	20	14	13	9	11	167
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1097</b>

**OFFENSES (IN ARRESTS) BY AGE GROUP – FY 2016**

OFFENSES	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	55>	TOTALS
ARSON		1		1			2
ASSAULT – AGGRAVATED		5	1	8	13	2	29
ASSAULT – SIMPLE		8	16	22	29	9	84
BAD CHECKS					1		1
BURGLARY / BREAKING & ENTERING			3	1	5		9
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY		1	2	2	1		6
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER				1			1
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM	2		3	3	2		10
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1	5	8	16	12	3	45
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE		2	26	49	37	9	123
DRUG / NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS		2	31	26	14	3	76
DRUNKENNESS - PROTECTIVE CUSTODY			12	28	31	9	80
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE			3	1	1		5
FAMILY OFFENSES, NON-VIOLENT					3		3
FORCIBLE FONDLING					1		1
IMPERSONATION						1	1
INTIMIDATION		2		2	2		6
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		3	16		1		20
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL			1				1
PROSTITUTION			4				4
ROBBERY				2			2
SHOPLIFTING		1	10	9	7	1	28
STATUTORY RAPE			1				1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES		3	4	2	2		11
THEFT FROM BUILDING				2			2
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE				3			3
THEFT OF M/V		1					1
TRAFFIC / TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES		28	85	107	100	24	344
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY		1	7	2	3	3	16
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS		2	1	1			4
ALL OTHER LARCENY		3	3	5			11
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		5	35	57	54	16	167
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1097</b>

**WEAPONS INVOLVED IN OFFENSES – FY 2016**

WEAPON TYPE	OCCURRENCES	PERCENTAGE
None	2493	91.3
Personal Weapons (Hands, Feet, Etc.)	145	5.3
Other	25	0.9
Knife, Cutting Instrument	12	0.4
Blunt Object	23	0.8
Handgun	8	0.3
Firearm (Unspecified)	9	0.3
Motor Vehicle	8	0.3
Unknown	4	0.1
Rifle	2	0.1%
Poison	1	0.1%
Fire/Incendiary Device	1	0.1%
<b>Total Occurrences</b>	<b>2731</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## **Regional Animal Control**

Palmer Animal Control is a regional facility providing animal control services for the towns of Palmer and Monson. We also provide sheltering services to dogs from the towns of Ware and Warren. The Palmer Animal Control Department is staffed by one full-time and one per diem Animal Control Officer.

Dogs picked up by the department are held for seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. The Officers respond to off-hour emergencies as needed. Non-emergency calls are returned during regular business hours. Our facility is heated and air conditioned, dogs have raised beds as well as toys and blankets. We do our best to get dogs home as soon as possible.

Although Animal Control is a small department, the staff responds to just over two thousand calls a year for the towns of Palmer and Monson, with significantly more when we add in the sheltering responsibilities of Ware and Warren.

Officers participate in annual training to keep up to date with certifications, handling techniques and continuing education. Our full time officer, Wendy LeSage is a graduate of the Municipal Police Part-Time Academy and has completed “Expert Cruelty Investigator” training. Both the full time and part time officers are graduates of the Animal Control Officer Association of Massachusetts, ACOAM, training academy and have attended state training as well.

In addition to “dog calls”, the Animal Control Officers respond to calls regarding public safety issues, such as injured cats or wildlife. The department fields many calls regarding wildlife. The Officers offer educational materials and information that is obtained through the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife when issues arise as well as assessing the situation for human safety.

**Bites 2015:** Palmer – 27; Monson – 4

Possible exposure to rabies via wildlife and cats – 17; We had three humans exposed to a rabid fox, and one dog exposed to a rabid skunk.

Massachusetts General Law states that all dogs be licensed, all dogs, cats and ferrets are up to date on rabies vaccines. The department provides a low cost rabies vaccination and micro-chip identification clinic for the public yearly.

### **Dog License Statistics for 2015**

Palmer: 1126

Monson: 823

### **Dog License Statistics to Date for 2016**

Palmer: 1053

Monson: 812

**Registered Kennels** - The state requires owners of four or more dogs be registered. Inspections are done yearly. Palmer – 10  
Monson – 8

Please don't hesitate to call or email the department with questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wendy LeSage

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Highway – Parks – Cemetery - Wastewater**

The Palmer Department of Public Works herewith submits its annual report for 2016.

Through the Capital Improvement Plan the Palmer DPW was able to purchase:

- A new 2016 International 7300 heavy duty dump truck for the Highway division,
- A new 2016 Elgin Sweeper for the Highway division,
- A new 16 ft. Toro Grounds master 5910 Riding lawnmower for the Park Division.

And through the Waste Water Treatment Plants sewer surplus account and matching funds from the Chapter 90 funding account, the DPW was able to purchase a new 2016 Catch basin cleaning truck and a new plow frame for the truck. These four pieces of equipment will be added to our existing fleet that are most 20+ years old.

Paint crews worked in the summer and fall months painting crosswalks, stop lines and turn arrows in all villages. Hi-Way Safety Systems, Rockland, MA was hired to paint centerlines and fog lines throughout the Town.

In September 2015, the DPW hired a new Driver Laborer, a new Mechanic and a new Heavy Equipment Operator.

On September 12, 2015, a Bulky Day was held at the Palmer DPW. This event is held each year to help town residents dispose of items for a small fee that cannot be thrown away in their regular trash. Items accepted are furniture, white goods, electronics, scrap metal and tires.

Also every September in conjunction with the towns of East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Hampden, Ludlow and Wilbraham, Palmer residents have the opportunity to dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (residential waste only). This annual event is free of charge and is held at Minnechaug High School in Wilbraham. Collections are made by appointment and a list of items accepted and not accepted items is posted on the town's website and in the local newspaper.

Through the efforts of our new DPW Director, many hours were spent traveling town streets in the fall evening hours checking for burned out street lights and reporting pole numbers to National Grid.

In November, the DPW started cutting rip rap in Three Rivers (flood control area starting at the Municipal Park lot). Also, in November, the DPW's mechanics worked with Mass Mobile Inspection Co. to insure that all trucks in every division passed inspection.

Although the town experienced a fairly mid-winter season, six snow storm events were recorded from December 2015 through April 2016. Twenty eight and a half inches of snow fell, with the greatest amount of five inches falling on April 4, 2016.

Due to any early spring snow storm and the treating of town roads on April 4 2016, the town Sweeper was not sent out to sweep all “Mains” in each village until the week of April 11, 2016.

Also in early spring, crews began roadside mowing and pot hole patching and continue their efforts into the summer months.

In May through Chapter 90 funds, a section of High Street, Thorndike was milled.

David Handzel, Superintendent of the Park Division of the DPW and his crew strive to keep all twenty five town fields and parks, school grounds and play park areas in town looking their best for all sporting events and children and families to enjoy.

Michael Skowronek, Superintendent of the Cemetery Division of the DPW continues to work diligently as caretaker to maintain all town cemeteries to look their best especially for Memorial Day.

At this time I would like to thank all town departments and personnel that have assisted me and the Department of Public Works throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudy Pisarczyk,  
DPW Operations Director

## **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY**

Capital improvements at our facilities and collection system continue on a yearly basis. Fiscal Year 2016 replacement of the old stand by generator at pumping station #1 and with the assistance of National Grid we replaced an old aeration blower with a new energy efficient blower

Palmer now has new regulations from the 2003 Draft Permit U.S.EPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) that pertain to stormwater. The WPCF has become part of the town wide team to tackle these new unfunded mandates. The new permit becomes effective on July 1, 2017 and will have a impact on our entire community.

We continue to work with The Water Planet Company from New London Ct. that specializes in the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus without the large investment for expansion of the treatment plant. As of July 2016 the result have been very positive and cost effective.

The \$6.09 million sewer replacement project for problematic areas of the sewer system has been completed .The project areas included Sunset Acres in Three Rivers, Brainerd Street and Riverview Parkway areas in Palmer, High Street in Thorndike, and part of South High Street in Bondsville.

I would like to thank my staff at the wastewater treatment plant and the sewer division for their dedication, cooperation, and professionalism that they demonstrate daily.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Skowronek  
Director of Public Works

## **PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **Introduction**

The library was staffed by eleven full-time employees and one part-time page during fiscal year 2016. Ten librarians offered a wealth of programming for adults, young adults, and children. 4,040 people attended the 292 programs offered by the library, a large increase over the previous year for all age groups. Annual statistics also confirm that the library was just as busy circulating books, DVDs, CDs, and other items to patrons as during the previous year.

In August 2015 a digital collection of Town of Palmer Annual Reports, dating back to 1853, became available in the Internet Archive. Amy Golenski, our Cataloging Librarian, cataloged and processed the physical items, which are part of the library's local history collection. Ashley Ngan organized, prepared, and shipped the collection of reports to the Boston Public Library to be digitized. The library's website links to these reports, making them available for use by anyone with an Internet connection anywhere in the world.

The library made two major policy changes to improve patron access to resources. Patrons are no longer required to use a library card to sign on and use public computers. Patrons may also continue to use computers for as long as needed, provided nobody is waiting for one.

The second change in policy allows all children and young adults to borrow DVDs and videos without prior authorization by a parent or guardian. The library does not restrict which types of materials children and young adults may borrow. Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring which library materials their children borrow, and are responsible for overdue fines or replacement charges on juvenile library cards. Library staff members are available to advise children and parents about selection of library materials.

### **Budget**

The town appropriated \$727,699 for the library's operating budget, a 1.14% increase over the FY2015 budget. The town was granted its 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive waiver of the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (\$803,086 in FY2016 for Palmer) by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). Included in the town's budget appropriation was the amount of \$106,494 for purchase of materials for the library's collections. This amount satisfies mid-level compliance with the Materials Expenditure Requirement of the MBLC at 14.6% of the total appropriation.

### **Personnel**

In April, one of two Adult Services Librarian positions was eliminated to permit the hiring in the next fiscal year of a new Assistant Director. Timothy Hayes was unfortunately let go after a year in the Adult Services position. Tim had demonstrated a flair for serving the public, selecting science fiction materials, building a board game collection, and launching creative programs. He is missed by library staff and patrons alike. In November Helene O'Connor, a 21-year veteran staff member, was reassigned to be Collection Development Librarian.

In 2015 Sourpouhie (Susie) Varjabedian reached her 25<sup>th</sup> year as an employee of the library. Susie is our page, shelving books for 15 hours each week, and giving patrons friendly assistance as they search for materials in the stacks. She is a wealth of knowledge about the library and downtown since the 1960s, having lived most of her life in Palmer.

### **Library Association and Board of Directors**

At its annual meeting in October, the Palmer Public Library Association bestowed the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Mary M. McManus Award on Bonny Rathbone, honoring her service to the Palmer public school system for over 35 years as a teacher and administrator. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Robert M. Sullivan Award was presented to long-time library (and Top Floor Learning) volunteer Stanley Skowyra, in recognition of the donation of time, talent, and expertise he has made over the years in cabinet- and furniture-making, construction, and building maintenance.

Several new members were elected to the Board of Directors: Kayla Hopper, Donna Laviolette, Daniel Pear, and Sara Sibik. Kristine Kelley was elected alternate, and became a full member after the resignation of Gloria Byrnes. Elected as officers were David Droz, president; Cynthia Melcher, vice-president; Janice Marciniec, secretary; and Julie Manning, treasurer.

Former board member Sandra Nichols presented an informative lecture about the portrait of Dr. Aaron King, descendant of Palmer town founder John King. The portrait now hangs opposite the entranceway on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the library, an appropriate addition during the town's celebration of its 300<sup>th</sup> year since settlement.

### **Friends of the Library**

With funds earned through book sales at the Library Loft Used Book Store on Park Street, the Friends of the Palmer Public Library provide financial support for children's programs.

As in past years, the Friends generously paid the cost of having Maureen Solomon of Compleat Communications of Monson design and produce each issue of the library's quarterly *Seasons* newsletter. After 17 years as newsletter designer, Maureen retired after producing the summer 2016 issue. The library staff and the Friends will miss Maureen's warmth and professionalism in our collaborations over newsletter production.

### **Patron Use of the Library**

Number of registered borrowers	8,330
Total attendance at library	78,537
Items received from other libraries for our patrons	15,491
Items provided to other libraries for their patrons	21,152
<i>Library materials borrowed by our patrons:</i>	
Books	68,820
Print magazines & newspapers	2,249

Audio (CDs, Playaways, etc.)	11,315
Video (DVDs, VHS)	37,484
Ebooks	3,750
Downloadable audio (books, music, etc.)	1,668
Downloadable video	44
Materials in electronic format (CD-ROMs)	2,056
Miscellaneous (kits, puppets, etc.)	423
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127,809</b>
Number of reference transactions	6,762
Number of users of public wireless access	8,207

## Collections

New databases at the library this year include Rosetta Stone for learning languages; Fold3, a database of military records for veterans of the U.S. Armed Services, useful in genealogical research; and Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867 to 1970, which includes large-scale fire insurance maps for Massachusetts municipalities, showing the location and footprint of buildings on streets and giving genealogists and historians invaluable information about residences, businesses, and neighborhoods.

The library now circulates a pass to the Forest Park Zoo, providing free admission for up to 5 people (entrance fee to Forest Park itself must still be paid).

<i>Library holdings by type of material:</i>	
Books	54,913
Volumes of print magazines & newspapers	1,907
Audio (CDs, Playaways, etc.)	8,060
Video (DVDs, VHS)	6,305
Ebooks	174,055
Downloadable audio (books, music, etc.)	11,325
Downloadable video	997
Materials in electronic format (CD-ROMs)	538
Microfilm	208
Miscellaneous (kits, puppets, etc.)	162
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>258,470</b>

## Programming

Joanne Szelag, Adult Services Librarian, organized the dedication in August 2015 of a new garden in front of the library's flag pole to honor veterans as part of the Summer Reading Program "Every hero has a story!" Many people assisted with and supported this project, including a team of volunteer gardeners: Susan Bussell, Janice Lachut, and Eleanor Szlachetka.

The following May at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association Joanne gave a presentation about this Veterans' Garden & Memorial Project as an example of building bridges to the community.

More than 600 kids, teens, and adults signed up for the summer read-at-home program, logging 13,622 days of reading. To conclude the Summer Family Performance Series, the Toe Jam Puppet Band entertained over 200 young people. Summer reading is supported financially by the Friends of the Library, Palmer Cultural Council, Boston Bruins, Massachusetts Library System, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and many local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Creative youth and young adult programming continued year-round thanks to Richard Clark, Assistant Youth Services Librarian, Matthew DeCara, Young Adult Librarian, and Stephanie Maher, Head of Youth Services. The library's regular offerings ranged from story time for young children to role-playing for teens and chess club and chess tournaments for all ages. Rich Clark arranged to have Palmer children's artwork displayed for many months on the wall above the exit from Big Y as part of a Community Coloring Project.

Matthew DeCara and the Teen Advisory Board gave children of all ages a chance to decorate a Thanksgiving Turkey Craft in November, and then hosted 200 people for the annual Gingerbread House Workshop in December.

Regular and special adult programming also received a boost this fiscal year. Joanne Szelag hosted the new Terrific Tuesdays with Joanne Book Club, reading a variety of current fiction and nonfiction. Joanne also started Drop-in Sit and Knit sessions two days per week. Timothy Hayes created a Cooking Book Club, in which participants prepared and tasted dishes from current cookbooks. Tim also started a monthly Board Game Night.

In September Town Councilor Donald Blais successfully reprised his Palmer Historical & Cultural Center lecture on the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and in March he gave a talk about the Life of Eleanor Roosevelt to celebrate Women's History Month.

In October the library also hosted a packed forum on the proposed restoration of passenger rail service from Boston to Palmer and Springfield, featuring Senator Eric Lesser, who was introduced by Senator Anne Gobi.

The library presented a December holiday concert by Noah Lis, and a Love Songs Concert in February by Tony Valley. Helene O'Connor organized "Color Me Calm," a pair of evenings at which grown-ups tried their hand at coloring books for adults. "Learn to Play the Ukulele with Julie Calamine" was a popular April program.

Under the guidance of Matthew DeCara, the library again offered the popular Blind Date with a Book during February. Helene O'Connor continued to host the Wicked Wednesday Mystery Book Club.



Number of children's programs	118
Attendance at children's programs	2,345
Number of young adult programs	81
Attendance at young adult programs	685
Number of adult programs	93
Attendance at adult programs	1,010

## **Meeting Spaces**

The library's three meeting rooms were used 912 times during the year, excluding library staff and Board meetings.

Mondays at 10 a.m. the Community Room was used for a Home School Meet Up for children being home-schooled by their parents.

There were monthly art exhibits in the Community Room this year, including: Collage 'Visual Mash-ups' by Jennifer Turner; art work by students in the Palmer public schools, and by Palmer Senior Center artists; watercolors by Kara Bigda; oils by Ruth Sanderson, featuring horses in honor of Blue Star Equiculture; "Roosters," a watercolor and mixed-media exhibition by Sue Chaffee and Denise Fontaine-Pincince; and watercolors by Sue Dion.

## **Charitable Work and Outreach**

The library engaged in a number of charitable endeavors to support community organizations:

- collecting supplies for service men and women recently deployed overseas;
- collecting 252 pounds of food for Palmer Food Share;
- gathering 43 hats, 12 scarves, and 23 sets of gloves & mittens on a Mitten Tree, afterwards distributed by Palmer Food Share to area residents;
- collecting approximately 5 "Backpacks for the Homeless" plus 4 boxes & several bins full of supplies to be distributed by the Nipmuck Youth Council to homeless individuals in our area;
- serving as a collection point for the Palmer Lions Club Toy Drive;
- collecting pajamas for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston Bruins PJ drive for Cradles to Crayons;
- serving as a drop-off location for the #HeartsForHeadStart campaign.

Staff members expanded the library's outreach to the community. In addition to the library's regular outreach van delivery service to homebound citizens, the van was used to take the library on the road to National Night Out and Pumpkin Palooza, both in Three Rivers, and to Celebrate Palmer. Rich Clark took the lead in organizing and extending library outreach at these popular events.

### **Fundraising and Donations**

In August National Computer Warehouse Services chose the library to be the beneficiary of \$500 in donations from participants in a computer hard-drive recycling event at the company's local office in the Mapletree Industrial Park.

At the first annual Cookie Swap Fundraiser in December, 29.5 pounds of cookies were sold at \$5 per pound.

More than 60 people came to the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Poetry Pageant, organized and emceed by Denise Fontaine-Pincince. Readers and sponsoring organizations paying the \$25 fee to read "Poems of Praise" contributed \$575 to the library. Local businesses generously funded a number of prizes that were raffled off to lucky winners in the audience.

Valley Gives Day was held on May 3 this year. The library received \$555 in donations.

### **Other Organizations at the Library**

The library continues to be home to River East School-to-Career, a nonprofit business and education partnership providing students with work-based learning experiences at local companies.

The library is also home to Top Floor Learning, a nonprofit adult literacy organization that provides basic adult education services, including HiSET preparation and testing, an ESL program, citizenship preparation, and basic computer literacy instruction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Benjamin R. Hood  
Library Director

## **PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Palmer Public Schools welcomed new Superintendent Patricia Gardner on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, who brings 33 years of experience in education to the Palmer Public Schools. Superintendent Gardner is committed to providing quality professional development, student focused instructional practices, improving the districts accountability status and promoting the positives of the Palmer Public Schools.

Projected enrollment for the 16-17 School Year; Old Mill Pond School (grades PK-5) approximately 700 students, Converse Middle School (6-7) approximately 250 students, and Palmer High Schools (8-12) has approximately 500 students.

### **Palmer High School**

The class of 2016 received their diplomas on June 5th at Palmer High School. Ninety- nine seniors matriculated with 82% attending either a 4-year or a 2-year college, 55% immediately to a 4-year college, 27% to a 2 year college, 9% will enter the military and 9% heading to the work force. The top twenty seniors in the class were honored and recognized by the Palmer Rotary Club at the annual Student Achievement Luncheon. The Rotary presented three \$1000.00 scholarships at the luncheon. Seniors were rewarded for their years of hard work, effort, and academic success at the Annual Awards and Scholarship Night where over \$50,415.00 was awarded in scholarships. Fifty-four different local families, organizations, and businesses presented 120 individual scholarships to 44 of our seniors. Academic and athletic awards were presented to seniors and underclassmen during the Annual Class Day Ceremony, held on June 3rd. We sincerely appreciate the generosity extended to our seniors by the numerous individuals, families, and organizations of Palmer.

One hundred percent (100%) of the graduating class received a competency determination requirement established by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to receive a diploma. During the 2015-2016 school year, the Palmer High School continues to be designated as a level 3 school by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education based on the 2014-2015 MCAS results. The 2014-2015 MCAS Results are as follows: 93% of the 8th grade and 99% of the 10th grade passed the ELA portion of the MCAS, 74% and 89% of the students respectfully were in the proficient or the advanced categories. In Math 76 % of 8th graders and 99% of the 10th graders passed the MCAS, with 39% and 82% receiving advanced or proficient scores respectfully. On the Science and Technology MCAS 79% of the 8th grade passed the Science MCAS with 40 % receiving advanced or proficient scores. In the 9th grade, 86% of the students passed the Introduction to Physics MCAS with 65% of the students receiving advanced or proficient scores.

The Advanced Placement Program continues to grow and flourish at Palmer High School, thanks to the partnership forged with the Mass. Math and Science Initiative (MMSI). An overwhelming number of students participated in our Advanced Placement program. Out of a possible 184 students (total enrollment 11th/12th ), 82 students enrolled with 61 students taking 105 AP tests, resulting in 50 students receiving qualifying scores and reflecting 45% of eligible students taking

AP course(s) for the 2015-2016 school year. This Sustaining Partnership program offered teacher training by the College Board familiarizing our teachers with AP curriculum, advanced instructional practices, and current technologies. Along with the AP program, we also had 4 students participating in full time Dual Enrollment programs at Holyoke Community College.

Participation in the Gateway to College program at Holyoke Community College provided eight students, who were at risk for dropping out, with the opportunity to complete their High School Diploma as well as acquire college credits. Two of our Gateway to College students graduated, accumulating college credits. This was the fourth year of its implementation and we look forward to our continuing partnership. Through our School-to-Career Program in partnership with the River East School-to-Career Program, we provided the opportunity for work based experiences for 45 upperclassmen. It is our goal that, prior to graduation, every junior and senior will have the opportunity to experience an externship in their chosen field. Our students were able to gain hands-on experiences in teaching, nursing, accounting, law, economics, marketing and architectural design. We continue to expand and appreciate our partnerships with local businesses. They are an integral part of our success.

Palmer High hosted a myriad of events and celebrations, September Open House for parents, PHS Community Night, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Lions Club Speech Contest, John and Abigail Adams breakfast, Spirit Week with the culmination of ABC Honor Roll Live, and the student drama production "Blithe Spirit". In honor of College and Career Awareness Month in October, we sponsored a College Fair in conjunction with a myriad of activities that focused on college, military, trade schools and career readiness, 105 schools shared information about their Colleges and Universities with the juniors and seniors. We offered a second semester Open House in January. For the fifth year, a team of Palmer High School students competed in "As Schools Match Wits". Our Music Department performed at various events throughout the year: Eastern States Exposition, the Fall Concert, Festival of Bands and Choruses in December, the QVMEA Concert hosted here at Palmer High School, the Spring Concert, and the Memorial Day Parade. We sent four representatives, two each, to the Massachusetts Boys and Girls State for 2015 hosted by Stone Hill College. The Palmer High School hosted the Step Up Day for our incoming 7th graders. In strengthening our bond with the senior community, PHS celebrated National Grandparents/Grand Friend week with visitation to classrooms, and hosted a Grandparents/Grand Friend Thanksgiving luncheon and was entertained with a concert in the auditorium.

Our Palmer High School Faculty is comprised of dedicated, passionate and knowledgeable educators who go above and beyond in the service of PHS students. Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, three of our cherished educators were recognized for their superb efforts. Mrs. Mary Lou Callahan and Mrs. Karen Anti were nominated for the Quaboag Hills Choice Awards Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Kristine Kiley was awarded the coveted Harold Grinspoon Pioneer Valley Teacher of the Year Award.

Several of the athletic teams achieved milestones for the 2015-2016 school year. The Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams, Boys' Basketball Team, Individual swimmers qualified for Western Mass. and States, Individuals for Boy's Track qualified for States, Girls Softball Team, and the Tennis Team all qualified for post season play! The Golf Team came in second in Western Mass.

The Palmer United Booster Club and the Music Boosters were very active during the year. There were several fundraisers conducted, as well as recognition banquets for the student athletes and music students. Special thanks are extended to the members of both clubs for their time, hard work, and creative ideas for the benefit of the student body!

The 2015-2016 Palmer High School Council worked collaboratively with administration to incorporate the Superintendent's District Wide Goals as part of the three-year school improvement plan that serves to compel the school in the decision-making process. This plan starts and ends with the Palmer High School goals for student learning. All school initiatives and priorities continue to focus on preparing our students "for living, learning, and working in the 21st Century". The composition of the Council consisted of: Mary Lou Callahan, Principal; Olga Lopez, Jennifer Martin, Meg Pash, Staff Members; Officer Whalers, Community Representatives; Jennifer Beaudry, Bruce Wood, Janice McCoy and Catherine Reed, Parent Representatives; Tom Roberts, Student Representative, and Ex-Officio member, Gregory Runyan, Assistant Principal.

We appreciate and applaud the contributions of our staff members, parents, and community members in promoting lifelong learning skills and making a difference in the lives of our students.

### **Converse Middle School**

The 2015-2016 school year was a year of continued growth and commitment to the learning and success of every student in grades five, six, and seven including their success on the MCAS. Students in grade five were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, Math, and Science & Technology/Engineering. Students in grade six were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension and Math, and grade seven students were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, ELA Long Composition and Math. The staff at Converse worked hard to have the students well prepared for their MCAS assessments and the students put forth a serious and focused effort. Converse has maintained a favorable 'Level 2' status as assigned by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

As a part of our efforts of continual improvement, extensive MCAS data analysis was done by the faculty. This data was also reviewed by the CMS Academic Advisory Council and the CMS School Council. The data analysis was utilized to drive instructional changes to support student learning and success. As of this date we have received full preliminary results for the Spring 2016 MCAS ELA and partial preliminary results for the MCAS Math and Science & Technology/Engineering. Initial ELA data analysis indicates continued positive student growth.

At Converse we have just completed our third year with a long block schedule for students. This long block schedule provides 92 minutes of math and ELA every day with science and social studies each as one semester courses also at 92 minutes per day. This schedule has doubled our math instructional time for every student from 45 to 92 minutes per day. This has proved to be very beneficial to students.

Converse moved into our second school year with our new Student Council. The Council was organized with student officers elected from grades 6 and 7 as well as student representatives from each homeroom in the school. The Student Council continued to be a great addition to the school providing opportunities for student leadership as well as student input into issues affecting the school.

The Cougar's Den after school program has continued to be both a successful and valuable resource to many Converse students. Students have the opportunity to stay for an extended day that provides them with the opportunity for extra help, study centers, as well as a variety of educational and fun learning opportunities. The Cougar's Den staff has been supportive of the learning needs of Converse students in their design of specific math and ELA goals. Funding is a critical issue for this program – they have continued to seek out fundraising and grant opportunities to maintain their level of support to the students. The support of the community has meant a great deal to the Cougar's Den program, Converse students and their families.

The second CMS 5K Trot for Technology fundraiser was a great success. This event raised more than \$9,000 for much needed new technology to support student learning and instruction in classrooms. To date, we have been able to purchase several new computer carts, projectors, document cameras and new laptops. We had great support from the community.

The 2015-2016 CMS School Council worked collaboratively with school administration to support continued school improvements efforts at Converse CMS Student Council. Agenda items included:

- DESE Accountability Level; CMS Level 2
- Updates on the Status of the CMS Auditorium and Computer Lab
- Budget for FY17; possible implications for CMS
- MCAS, Spring 2016
- Pioneer Teaching in Excellence Award Winner; Ivy Peritz-Smith, grade 5 ELA teacher
- CMS School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- The New Palmer Schools website is live; [www.palmerschools.org](http://www.palmerschools.org)
- Technology; purchasing new equipment
- ALICE Training for staff
- MCAS 2.0 v. PARCC
- Low Risk Threats; New Policy
- School Spirit Week
- New Recycling Program at CMS
- Grade 5 at OMP
- School Spirit Week
- Implementation of a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) for all students

We would to thank the following members of the CMS School Council for their commitment, dedication and support of Converse: Parents; Jolene Masterlerz, Chris Lee and Mr. Ray Sikes, Teachers; Ana Dobson and Elizabeth O'Brien, and David Stetkiewicz, Principal-Chair,

Converse was proud to select Mrs. Ivy Peritz-Smith as the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award winner this school year. This award recognizes educators for the work they do

every day to support student learning. Mrs. Peritz-Smith certainly exemplifies excellence in her teaching practices and goes above and beyond expectations to support her students, colleagues and the school – well-deserved congratulations to Mrs. Peritz-Smith.

The Converse Middle School PTO, under the lead of Mrs. Sheila Browne and Mrs. Lisa Walch, has continued to provide significant support to the students and staff. Their fundraising activities have provided significant financial support of student's educational-based field trips, cultural activities and assemblies. The PTO has also continued to support and organize the 'Step-Up' Ceremony for the seventh grade students. Each seventh grade student was presented with a gift of a scientific calculator that should be quite useful to them as they enter eighth grade at Palmer High School. The PTO also supports the Converse Spring Fling each year as well as supporting our Yearbook that is produced each year. There are many parents and volunteers who provide many, many hours of work and support behind the scenes for the PTO and Converse – we cannot thank them enough for their support – it makes a big difference!

### **Old Mill Pond Elementary School**

At Old Mill Pond School, we are excited to welcome the first fifth grade class in the school's history to our building on August 30, 2016. We are excited to welcome them to a building that has recently received some updated painting on the interior and new sidewalks outside to greet them when they return.

Grades 3 and 4 participated in the MCAS Testing in the area of Mathematics and Reading in the spring. This is the final year for the MCAS test since it is being re-designed and we are told that it will be called MCAS 2.0 next spring when it is administered.

First and foremost, it is the Old Mill Pond School Council's undertaking to address both short-term and long-term goals in order to improve the educational quality of our students at *Old Mill Pond Elementary School*. Our plan's practicality reflects an active document which serves as a guide for the future. The school council has addressed, amended and enhanced the document's goals which are aligned with Palmer Public School's District Plan.

We would like to thank the following members of our School Council for their commitment and dedication:

Jacqueline Haley, Co-Chair, Principal  
Bonny Rathbone, Co-Chair, Community Representative  
Melissa Edwards, Teacher  
Erica Lavelle, Secretary, Teacher  
Lorraine DiNuovo, Community Representative  
Kara Noonan Pear, Parent  
Michelle Holbrook, Parent

Old Mill Pond is fortunate to have a very committed and active PTO called OMP PAWS! This group has spearheaded many activities that are aimed at improving the school and the school experience for all students. Some of the activities their fundraising efforts have funded this year are, fall festival, Santa's breakfast, field trip bus expense for each grade, staff appreciation

luncheon, staff name plates for new teachers, and contributions towards our new computer lab that opened in September, 2016! This group deserves our heartfelt thanks for continually supporting our students and school.

The Palmer Public School System is dedicated to providing professional development opportunities where the staff at Old Mill Pond School is kept abreast of current educational standards and teaching methods. The core of our evolving curriculum is the continued incorporation of the Common Core state standards as outlined in the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. We have solicited the talents and expertise of The Pioneer Valley District Curriculum and Assessment Center to work with the professionals at Old Mill Pond School. Through the District Professional Development funds and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Mass DESE) Grants, faculty have been engaged in a number of professional development activities aimed at improved student learning in literacy and mathematics. Old Mill Pond teachers have been involved in numerous training opportunities. Teachers in Grades K – 4 have received training in Mathematics by Looney Consulting Group, with additional days scheduled in the fall of 2016. Additionally, most of our K - 2 teachers received professional development by taking a seven day course in math recovery training (AVMR). This summer, 14 teachers in Grades K – 5 participated in a week-long summer class on the science standards.

Throughout the school, all faculty and staff were involved in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). During the year, the four half-day professional development days were spent determining District Determined Measures (DDMs), participating in PLCs where all staff learned about various educational topics and receiving professional development in the area of math.

Guidance counselors Mrs. Nicole Costello and Mrs. Karyn Savelle taught the Second Step curriculum to students in Grades K – 4. The Second Step curriculum addresses all students' social, emotional and academic learning to create a strong and safe community within the classroom and larger school environment. Implementation of The Second Step Curriculum was made possible through the generosity of the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force. These two guidance counselors also developed and taught a positive bus behavior program to all students on the three R's, Responsible, Respectful, and Ready. Their work was not presented on M-Pact as the first installment in "Palmer Positives".

Last year the Grinspoon Foundation invited the Palmer Public Schools to participate in a very exciting teacher recognition program established by Harold Grinspoon. It is Mr. Grinspoon's desire to honor and celebrate educators for the work they do and to bring to recognition the importance of the teaching profession. We here at Old Mill Pond School recognized Mrs. Amanda Elie as this year's recipient. This award was presented to an individual who possesses professionalism through qualities such as excellence in teaching practices; his/her own professional development, good attendance, and their ability to demonstrate collaboration and cooperation.



## **Special Services**

The Department of Special Services includes all special education programs, English as a Second Language Programs, home and hospital tutoring, McKinney-Vento (homeless) and New student registration. The department is responsible for the screening and evaluation of children between the ages of 3 and 21 for possible special needs. Assessing students English Proficiency and providing appropriate services.

The Palmer Public Schools are an Early Childhood through Grade 12 School District and is a member of the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical School District. It offers a full range of special needs programs at all levels beginning with an integrated preschool and continuing service through graduation, providing transition planning services for students who do not graduate with a diploma. The department provides an extensive array of supplemental support services including speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, BCBA, social skills, behavioral support services and school adjustment counseling. Services for low incidence (such as a Deaf or Blind) children are contracted annually as prescribed by the student's Individual Educational Plans.

Our Special Education enrollment is currently 285 students. The school system continues its effort, on the part of each of the schools, to meet children's needs within the classroom. When this is not possible, each school provides a variety of options to meet the needs of students while allowing them to remain in their own community. Programs at each level are available for students with language based learning needs, Autism, intellectual delays, physical handicaps and emotional disabilities. Each school offers life skills curriculums and support for social-emotional development. Social Emotional Behavioral education programs in each building address the needs of students at risk for failure or at risk of dropping out. Special education students have equal access to these programs through the building principals.

State and federal grants continue to assist in defraying some of the costs of special education. The Federal Special Education Grant, #240 (94-142), funds the cost of a number of paraprofessional instructional assistant positions at all three schools. The State Early Childhood Grant, 262 and 298, provide Occupational Therapy assistance, curriculum, assessment and screening services to children, enrolled in private preschool programs and other early childhood age groups. Grant 274 provides funding for special education improvement through professional development. Grant 632/625 provided funding for the high school to run an afterschool MCAS prep program and a summer school program for students struggling to pass the ELA, Math and Science High School MCAS.

From the Department of Special Services, the 2015-2016 school year was one of continued program improvement and development in the area of program design and curriculum. The district completed a Coordinated Program Review (CPR) and is awaiting the results.

## **Facilities**

The Facilities Department oversees the work performance of maintenance and custodial members in the school buildings, school bus transportation services, facility rentals and improvements.

The buildings and grounds are in use virtually 7 days a week and well into the late evening by many civic and private groups in addition to the school programs.

Extensive training with personnel regarding emergency and safety procedures relating to building infrastructure continues to be one of our major focal points.

As always, we cannot express enough how truly grateful we are to the other town departments who continually provide outstanding support, services and expertise.

Special thanks to the Parks and Highway Departments for all they do year round with the grounds. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

### **Summary**

The district is functioning as a Level 3 School District due to past performance regarding the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). As a Level 3 district, additional grant funding was provided to this district to be used for increased professional development to improved teaching skills and assessment scores. This professional development was intensive during the 2015-2016 school year and will continue throughout the coming school year. Additional information and detailed test scores can be found on the Palmer Public Schools' website by clicking on the Office of the Superintendent link.

The School Department budget has met the minimum requirement the last two fiscal years and will meet the again in FY17. Grants continue to provide approximately \$1 million in additional funding, however, due to federal and state cutbacks, grant funds have been reduced as well. Continued yearly increases in funding is greatly needed to meet the requirements of services to students at risk and to maximize the potential of all achieving students.

The School Committee, administration, faculty, and staff remain committed to the children of the Palmer Public Schools. Every effort has been made to provide our students with a safe, clean and engaging school environment. We encourage parents, the community and businesses to join us as we serve our community of learners in the coming years.

Respectfully,

Palmer School Committee

Andrea Mastalerz, Chair  
Lisa Murray, Vice Chair  
James Lynch, Secretary  
David M. Lynch, Member  
Gary Blanchette, Member

## **PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee presents this report to the citizens of the District. Currently the Committee consists of 11 members: two members each from Belchertown and Palmer and one each from the remaining towns. Michael Cavanaugh and David Droz, both from Palmer, continue to serve as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. Lorraine F. Alves continues to serve as secretary. Ashley Boudreau will serve another year as student representative.

### **CURRICULUM**

Based on the most recent MCAS scores, Pathfinder has continued to improve on narrowing the proficiency gaps, showing an increase in the graduation rate and a decrease in the number of dropouts for the 2014-2015 school year. However, Pathfinder has been designated as a “Level 3 School” by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. This designation means that, despite the improvement in MCAS scores, there are subgroups of the student population (*e.g.*, students with special needs; students with disabilities) that have not made sufficient progress toward “Proficiency” as expected by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

As one strategy to increase academic rigor, honors level courses were added in all core academic areas in our ninth grade programs. In addition to the honors programs, online learning has been embraced to provide additional academic offerings to ensure students’ continued academic success. Advanced Placement opportunities will be added to the program of studies for the 2016-2017 school year.

Pathfinder has continued to make advancements in technical offerings as well. All fifteen career areas have adopted the most recent state frameworks. Pathfinder continues to review all areas of curriculum for the staff and provides professional development opportunities to ensure they remain current in all areas of instruction.

### **2015 SKILLS USA**

Pathfinder is a “Total Participation” school, and all students are registered with both the state and national *SkillsUSA* organizations.

Pathfinder had been a member of the District 6, Western Mass. Qualifying Event held at McCann Technical High School since the districts were realigned six years ago. That alignment increased the number of schools from four to six. This past year, Pathfinder was moved to the District 5, Central District, because of proximity to Bay Path Regional in Charlton, and also to make room for two more schools that joined the West District Region. This new alignment has created a significantly more competitive event for Pathfinder than among schools in the previous configuration. .

**The District 5 Qualifying Competition** was held at Bay Path Regional Technical High School on March 11, 2015. Pathfinder brought 97 students to the event, competing in 30 different areas. The results netted the students 12 medals, including 1 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze. Medal winners represented the following shops: Machine/Manufacturing, Collision Repair, Electrical, Cosmetology and Programming and Web Design.

**The State SkillsUSA Competition** was held the weekend of April 30 – May 2, 2015, at the Best Western Royal Plaza, in Marlboro and at Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School. Pathfinder brought eight students who had qualified at the Districts in six technical areas and an additional three students who competed in two fields that had no qualifying event. The results netted Pathfinder 4 bronze medals in two technical areas--CNC Technician and Automated Manufacturing.

### **SELECTED MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS:**

#### **Collision Repair Technology:**

- Belchertown Fire Department: Students continued to work on the refinishing of a Chevrolet Tahoe fire emergency vehicle.

#### **Machine Technology:**

- Students machined several cribbage boards as donations to fundraisers for non-profit organizations. The students also machined several clocks. Recipients included:

Palmer Public Library  
Top Floor Learning, Palmer  
Machine Technology “Poker Run” (Pathfinder fundraiser)  
Pathfinder Car Show (*Skills USA* fundraiser)  
Local Retiring School and Town Officials

#### **Cosmetology:**

- Cosmetology students continued their annual visits to area Senior Centers during which they provided “Spa Days” for seniors. The services they offered included manicures, pedicures, facials, and hair styles. Currently the cosmetology students provide these services in Palmer, Ware, Monson and Belchertown.

#### **Carpentry:**

- Students completed a reception/entrance circulation desk for the Granby Public Library.

#### **Automotive Reconditioning:**

- Auto Reconditioning students provided services for police, highway, fire and water districts.

#### **Horticulture:**

- Horticulture students removed fallen trees and debris from cemeteries and town owned properties in several district towns.

## **COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Fifty One (51) students participated in the school's Cooperative Education Program which provides opportunities for paid, career-related jobs *in lieu* of attending their vocational classes. In this real work environment, the students enhanced their technical skills, developed interpersonal skills, and experienced valuable lessons in maintaining a balance among their personal lives, school academics, and their jobs. Co-op continues to be an excellent pathway to full-time employment.

A strong effort to work with area businesses and to strengthen Advisory Committees has been a driving force in obtaining cooperative education placements. The school is committed to providing students with this invaluable opportunity and intends to work closely with area businesses to continually expand the program.

## **STUDENT BODY**

Pathfinder's enrollment as of October 1, 2015 totaled 619 students, including the following numbers from member towns: Belchertown 104; Granby 19; Hardwick 24; Monson 101; New Braintree 11; Oakham 11; Palmer 155; Ware 94; and Warren 46. The remaining students were residents of out-of-district communities, the largest number of students coming from Ludlow (22). The 619 figure on October 1st represents a decrease of 1 student overall from the number reported on October 1, 2014.

In order to better meet students' needs and to more effectively accommodate parents, the Special Education and Guidance Department have been combined under a Pupil Personnel Director.

The Pupil Services Office—which also serves as the Admissions Office—once again received far more applications for the 180 ninth grade openings than the school could accommodate. Transfer opportunities into the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grades were also very limited. Consequently, the school experienced another year of waiting lists for each grade.

This school year students from all member districts visited Pathfinder on the Monday before Thanksgiving, and it was a great success. In early October, guidance counselors were invited to attend a breakfast meeting designed specifically to update them about the admissions policies and the new online application procedures. In October and November, Pathfinder's guidance counselors visited the 8th graders in member towns to provide an in-depth presentation about Pathfinder's offerings and the application process. In November, an evening Open House event was held for 5th-8th graders and their parents. The event featured a free dinner and a tour of the facility, including a visit to technical areas of interest.

During the pre-Thanksgiving date, interested students were invited to participate in a field trip with their school counselor to visit Pathfinder and get a first-hand look at technical programs, facilities, and to interact with current students. This visit is a great opportunity for the students to experience a typical day at Pathfinder. This year a larger number of students participated in

these tours than the previous year. Students also had the opportunity to apply for September admission during their visit.

The Pathfinder Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society inducted a deserving group of new and existing members in an impressive ceremony. To qualify, students must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above and exhibit the qualities of skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. The induction ceremony is held in early spring so that senior inductees can include this recognition on college, scholarship, and work applications. The Chapter continued the practice of inviting as guests underclass students who had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who demonstrated potential for induction into the Society

At the twenty-ninth Annual “Outstanding Vocational-Technical Student” awards dinner sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA), Electrical Student Michael Desjardins, of Ware, was Pathfinder’s honoree. Michael is a remarkable young man with an unwavering work ethic. He was the top student in his class and had earned a cumulative GPA of 3.89. He had received a myriad of academic and technical awards for excellence and outstanding achievement throughout his high school career. Michael was also awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship based on his excellent MCAS scores. He was a two-year member of the National Technical Honor Society. After graduation, Michael planned to attend Springfield Technical Community College majoring in Electrical Engineering while joining the Air Force Reserves.

The recipient of the M.A.S.S. Academic Excellence Award for Pathfinder was Shannon Kennedy,

Of Palmer, who was an exceptional student in the Carpentry Program. Shannon ranked second in her class with a cumulative GPA of 3.788. Shannon, too, was awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship this year based on her excellent MCAS scores. She was a two-year member of the National Technical Honor Society. Shannon planned to further her education after Pathfinder, majoring in Architecture

In June 2015, the graduating class of 128 students received diplomas and technical certificates at commencement exercises. Fifty-one (51) graduates received awards totaling \$27,150.00 during the ceremony. \$224,000.00 was offered through scholarships, awards and grants to some of our graduates from the colleges and universities where they had been offered admission. Once again, state and local organizations and businesses, post-secondary institutions, as well as private individuals, continued to recognize the ability and potential of Pathfinder graduates in the form of generous donations. The school committee, administration-- and particularly the graduates-- are grateful for this support and are especially proud of the number of awards that have been made to honor the memory of former Pathfinder students and staff members.

### PUPIL SERVICES

Nicole Heroux serves as the Director of Pupil Services. Pupil Services is comprised of both the Special Education and Guidance Departments.

Mrs. Heroux scrutinized the school's programs for Special Education, English Language Learners and Civil Rights.in preparation for the Coordinated Program Review by staff from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. During that review, Pathfinder was recognized for the strengths it has in its programs. The findings of the CPR were substantially improved over those from five years ago, and DESE staff members were complimentary regarding progress that has been made.

The Department continues to be committed to finding opportunities to offer different pathways to learning so that the diverse ability levels of the students might be accommodated. The guidance staff is working on revising the College and Career Readiness for students' best interests when it comes to their emotional and educational well-being.

The Special Education Department strives to address the needs of *all* learners in grades 9-12. Through continued integrated efforts with students, parents, and other student support services, the Department focuses on promoting each student's self-awareness, ability to self-advocate, and sense of self sufficiency. All students admitted to Pathfinder are expected to fulfill the same requirements to receive a high school diploma as in local town high schools, and all students must have access to all academic and vocational programs. The staff at Pathfinder continues to work to develop an appropriate education for the students who were previously in the Substantially Separate program to insure their success at the school.

Team chairpersons conducted Team evaluations, annual reviews and re-evaluations for over 157 special needs students. The Pupil Services Department continued to be responsible for approximately 50 students who have 504 Accommodation Plans. Section 504 is a federal civil rights law which requires the provision of reasonable accommodations to students and staff who qualify as disabled under the law.

Work continued on the collaboration between special and general educators. Vocational and academic teachers have been receiving professional development on Differentiating Instruction and how to work with students with Social Emotional needs.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Over the course of the school year, students worked together to plan a trip to New York City to see a Broadway show. During the planning, they needed to familiarize themselves with school rules pertaining to field trips, obtain estimates for things like buses and theater tickets, and also make a plan for this enormous undertaking. Students had to raise the \$2,000 cost of the trip themselves by having multiple dances, participating in a staff -supported senior initiative, and designing a Donors Choose website. Students also took the initiative to do some public speaking in front of the Pathfinder School Committee to explain their motives for planning this trip and to gain approval for out- of- state travel. In April, the students enjoyed the sights and sounds of New York City by beginning their day in Rockefeller Center, taking in a performance, and having dinner in the city before returning to Pathfinder that night.

Horticulture students participated in the FFA State Convention held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel. They participated in Floriculture, Team and Single Demonstrations, Job Interview and Science

Project. They also competed in Safe Equipment/Tractor Operation, Forestry, Turf Management, and Arbor skills throughout the school year. Attendance at this event was supported by several fund raising activities throughout the year. Other Career Development Events were held at Technical High Schools throughout Massachusetts. Pathfinder boasts 100% FFA membership, including students in all four grades. Students are currently contemplating attending the National Convention this year.

Three blood drives were held during the year, the most recent taking place in November with 57 donors registered. After deferrals, 11 units of red cells and 34 pints of whole blood were donated for a grand total of 46 pints of blood. Since each pint of blood may help save the lives of up to 3 people, potentially 138 patients were helped!

The school's third annual Craft Fair was held in November, sponsored by the senior class with their advisers, Mrs. Rugg and Mr. Robertson. It featured over 35 vendors and various forms of crafts from the surrounding local area, filling not only the gym but the cafeteria as well.

The Breakfast with Santa was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and sponsored by the Business Technology students and staff. Children were able to meet with Santa and tell him their wishes as well as enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast served up by students, staff, and administration.

Once again, the Student Council ran a very successful Thanksgiving food drive. The donations were as follows: 58 Turkeys and 1451 boxed/canned goods.

## **ATHLETICS**

Participation numbers remained consistent with approximately 175 students taking part athletic programs. Of concern was the major decrease in freshman boys' participation in football and soccer. The co-op programs in wrestling and swimming with Ware and Palmer High Schools continued.

In 2015 the varsity girls' soccer, basketball, and softball teams qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament. The varsity baseball team qualified for both the Western Mass. and State Vocational tournaments and advanced to the second round of the Western Mass tournament.

Austin LeClerc and Sophia Hess were named the outstanding male and female athletes, respectively for 2015.



## **GRANTS, DONATIONS AND CONTRACTS 2015**

Program Name	Amount	Application
Title 1	\$142,457	Retain Title 1 ELA instructor; purchase 4 Smart Boards, Summer Transition Program, Supplies
Title 2	\$22,048	<i>Retaining Highly Qualified Students</i> Professional Development; Math CVTE Trainings; Partial SPED teacher salary; Marzano Training
SPED Improvement Grant	\$5,194	Inclusion Training for Mixed staff
SPED	\$221,902	4 aides' salary; Inclusion Model Instructor; Supplies, E-SPED; one- half salary for on-site School Psychologist.
Perkins	\$99,515	<i>Fit Pick and Place</i> (Electronics Equipment); 2 Smart Boards; MAVA CVTE Conference; New Hospitality Instructor
Vocational Equipment Grant (Perkins)	\$33,139	<i>Pick and Place</i> equipment (Electronics)
Academic Support	\$17,400	Supported 4 week (48 Contact Hours) Project Based MCAS Prep summer program
WIA Program	\$40,414	Supported 5 weeks, @25 hrs./ week summer work for 24 participants; 2 Year- round part-time jobs.
WIA Bonus Program	\$4,600	Provided quarterly bonuses of \$50-100 for WIA participants meeting Pathfinder criteria (grades, attendance)
DSAC Grant	\$9,331	DSAC supported trainings In-House Learning; Embedded Reading and History Research Skills
TOTAL	\$596,002	

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The Summer Youth Enrichment Program was not offered due to the on-going roof replacement project during which students could not be in the building. The program will return in 2016 with a discounted rate in order to revive the program's enrollment.

Parent and student satisfaction with the Youth Enrichment Programs has been extraordinary. Many students return to the program several times and express regret when they become too old to participate. It serves as an excellent introduction to Pathfinder and its environment.

Pathfinder offered two summer school programs designed to enable students to recover credit needed for their promotion or graduation. The on-line academic summer school ran during the month of July for four weeks, with students being expected to log the equivalent of 40 hours per course. Overall, students from 17 schools (including Pathfinder) completed 100 online courses. Vocational related theory courses ran during one week in July in a classroom setting at the school, requiring students to fulfill 20 hours per course. Three Pathfinder students completed this program.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF**

Currently the Pathfinder staff consists of 43 vocational teachers, 25.5 academic teachers, 1 teaching assistant, 1 part-time Athletic Trainer, 9 special education teachers, 3 counselors, a psychologist, a library-media specialist, a speech & language pathologist, a behavioral specialist, a nurse and 10 paraprofessionals. The school is managed by the Superintendent and a group of 7 professional administrators as well as a full-time grants coordinator. The support staff includes 7 custodians, 11 clerical personnel, and 2 cafeteria workers.

In June, the school said farewell to retiree Louis Disessa (Auto Body Instructor) and to Nick Jorge (IT Director) who departed for another opportunity during the summer. Subsequently Steven Sanders (Electrical Instructor), Josselyn Winter (Electronics Instructor), and Carol Gantor (Paraprofessional) retired during the year.

New Hires included Ashley Puls and Shaun Moriarty (Social Studies); Kevin Sloan (Mathematics); Richard Brown (Electrical); Veronica Darmon (Hospitality); Scott Desroches (Auto Body); Caitlin Phelps (Health Occupations); Lisa Marie Bordenuk, Kendra Wilson and Mary Brothers (Paraprofessionals); Ellen Garrepy (Math Inclusion); and Cole Rogers (IT Director).

Dr. Paist continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and on the Board of Directors of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. An active member of the Assn. for Career & Technical Education, he is one of two Region I Directors for that organization's National Council of Local Administrators

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

In February of 2015, the school committee adopted a FY16 budget of \$13,360,207, representing a 1.59% Increase over the previous year. Subsequently, Pathfinder's nine member communities unanimously voted favorably on their assessments during their 2015 town meetings, thereby approving the FY16 budget pursuant to the regional school budget statute. (Please note that Pathfinder's budget increased 2.97% in FY14 and decreased 0.34% in FY15).

While the Regional School Transportation reimbursement rate is historically unpredictable, the last five years of reimbursements have been in the range of 55% - 73%. Included in the FY16 approved state budget, the Regional School Transportation Reimbursement Rate was set at 73%, which was also the final reimbursement rate for FY15. While Regional School Districts welcomed the increase in transportation reimbursement rates in FY15 and FY16, those rates are still well below their previously promised 100% reimbursement rate, which, coincidentally, has never occurred.

As stated in past years, Pathfinder had historically generated substantial annual revenue from the enrollment of non-resident tuition students once all eligible in-district applicants had been accepted. These revenues have been used to subsidize the annual operating budgets and reduce District assessments. Since FY11, non-resident student enrollments have dropped, leading to decreased annual non-resident tuition revenues. In FY11, non-resident tuition accounted for nearly \$900,000.00 in annual revenue. In the current FY16 school year, non-resident tuition will account for approximately \$410,000.00 in revenue. Through the implementation of cost saving measures (*e.g.*, Health Insurance Plan Design Changes, a new electricity Net Metering Agreement, and consolidation of professional positions), and with revenue increases in the areas of School Choice Aid and Regional Transportation Aid, Pathfinder has attempted to mitigate the reduction in non-resident tuition revenue.

Additionally, Chapter 70 Aid from the Commonwealth continues to be a concern. For FY16, Pathfinder's Chapter 70 Aid was increased a modest \$11,760 from the previous fiscal year. Pathfinder's total FY16 Student Enrollment of 620 students is nearly unchanged from the FY15 enrollment of 619 students. With the FY17 enrollment currently estimated at 620 students, we expect Chapter 70 School Aid to be relatively unchanged in FY17.

Therefore, while modest increases in the areas of Chapter 70 Aid, Regional Transportation Aid and School Choice Revenue have been helpful, District expenses in the areas of salaries, health insurance, and pupil transportation have increased at a substantially higher rate. As a result, Pathfinder will continue to explore cost saving measures in an effort to operate in a more efficient and resourceful manner.

In conclusion, Governor Baker recently commented that, "The skills gap is real across the country, and many companies cannot find the talent they need to fill positions and further develop their local economic impact." In regard to his comment, Pathfinder is committed to providing a challenging and rigorous academic and technical educational experience to all students in an effort to ensure that they are prepared to fill the "skills gap" in our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

**The following chart illustrates the FY16 assessments (voted in spring of FY15) to each member community:**

ASSESSMENT CALCULATION FY2016:						
	MINIMUM	ADDITIONAL	SHARE OF	TRANS-	RETIREE	
TOWNS	CONT.	CONT.	REGULAR CAP.	PORTATION	HEALTH INSURANCE	TOTAL ASSESSMENT
Belchertown	\$ 700,928	\$ 235,174	\$ 2,013	\$ 75,201	\$ 48,054	\$ 1,061,370
Granby	\$ 200,230	\$ 55,490	\$ 475	\$ 17,744	\$ 11,339	\$ 285,278
Hardwick	\$ 147,748	\$ 66,060	\$ 565	\$ 21,124	\$ 13,498	\$ 248,996
Monson	\$ 889,118	\$ 290,664	\$ 2,488	\$ 92,945	\$ 59,392	\$ 1,334,608
New Braintree	\$ 99,360	\$ 29,066	\$ 249	\$ 9,295	\$ 5,939	\$ 143,909
Oakham	\$ 123,200	\$ 36,994	\$ 317	\$ 11,829	\$ 7,559	\$ 179,899
Palmer	\$ 1,130,503	\$ 425,427	\$ 3,642	\$ 136,038	\$ 86,929	\$ 1,782,538
Ware	\$ 670,805	\$ 290,664	\$ 2,488	\$ 92,945	\$ 59,392	\$ 1,116,295
Warren	\$ 222,475	\$ 124,193	\$ 1,063	\$ 39,713	\$ 25,377	\$ 412,821
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 4,184,367</b>	<b>\$ 1,553,732</b>	<b>\$ 13,300</b>	<b>\$ 496,835</b>	<b>\$ 317,478</b>	<b>\$ 6,565,712</b>

## **FACILITIES**

A highlight of the 2015 year was the successful total roof replacement project, the first in the school's 42 year history. The project was approved for 62.04% reimbursement by the Massachusetts School Building Authority, and bids were opened on March 26, 2015. The low bid of \$1,524,000 was submitted by Allied Restoration Corporation of East Hartford, CT. Work began with minimal disruption of student learning before the end of the school year and continued at a fast pace during the summer months. Most of the heavy work was completed before the beginning of school in September, leaving minor details and inspections for the fall.

As of the date of this report, the District's cost for this project is \$686,787.32. The amount of \$50,000 had already been transferred from FY14 funds, leaving a balance of \$636,787.32 owed by the District. This amount will not require bonding and will be satisfied by the District's entering into a five-year serial note through Eastern Bank.

## **CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

As Pathfinder enters its forty-third year offering quality vocational education to our member communities, the school committee wishes to reaffirm its pride in the staff and students. They have made substantial contributions to the economic health of our District. The committee recognizes that, in this era of accountability and high expectations, many changes need to be made. The increased emphasis on academic skills needs to be maintained without diminishing the quality of students' technical studies.

Finally, the committee wishes to thank our legislators, town officials and the several town meetings for their support over these years. The committee especially thanks retired Senator Stephen Brewer for his unwavering assistance to education and his friendship to Pathfinder.

The committee is mindful of the prediction that FY17 fiscal picture will undoubtedly present another challenge. However—as always-- the goal will be to preserve the quality of education that the students deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Palmer), Chairman  
David Droz (Palmer), Vice Chairman  
Lorraine F. Alves (Belchertown), Secretary  
Francesco Dell'Olio (Belchertown)  
William E. Johnson (Granby)  
Julie Quink (Hardwick)  
Kathleen Barrett (Monson)  
Shane Stafford (New Braintree)  
Jeffrey Nelson (Oakham)  
M. Barbara Ray (Ware)  
Thomas Rugani (Warren)  
Ashley Boudreau (Student Representative)

Gerald L. Paist, Superintendent-Director

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY  
AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE EMERGENCY - 911

<b>For Questions Regarding:</b>	<b>Call this Department:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Appeals (zoning issues)	<b>Appeals, Board of</b>	283-2605
Assessments, Abatements	<b>Assessors, Board of</b>	283-2607
Building Permits, Electric Permits, Plumbing, gas & wiring Permits, Zoning Enforcement	<b>Building Inspector</b>	283-2638
Burial Records, Cemetery Plots	<b>Cemetery</b>	283-2665
Emergency Preparedness, Catastrophe	<b>Civil Defense</b>	283-8792
Future planning for Palmer	<b>Community Development Dept. Palmer Redevelopment Authority</b>	283-2614 283-4100
Wetlands Management	<b>Conservation Commission</b>	283-2611
Senior activities, Information & Transportation	<b>Council on Aging</b>	283-2670
Animal Control	<b>Dog Officer</b>	283-7770
Health, Sanitation, Septic Permits/Title V, Food & Beverage License & Tobacco License	<b>Health, Board Of</b>	283-2606
Road Maintenance, snow & ice removal	<b>Department of Public Works</b>	283-2615
Federally funded elderly housing	<b>Palmer Housing Authority</b>	283-9311
All library services	<b>Palmer Public Library</b>	283-3330
Park & Field Maintenance	<b>Department of Public Works</b>	283-2615
Planning, Land Use, Zoning	<b>Planning Board</b>	283-2605
Public Schools	<b>Schools:</b>	
	<b>Converse Middle School</b>	283-2641
	<b>Old Mill Pond Elementary</b>	283-2630
	<b>Palmer High School</b>	283-2621
	<b>Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School</b>	283-9701
	<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>	283-2650
Scale, weight Certification	<b>Sealer of Weights &amp; Measures (Residence)</b>	283-4070
Committee Appointments, Class I, II & III Licenses, Amusement/Entertainment Licenses, Street Entrance, Street Excavation	<b>Town Manager</b>	283-2603
Parking Tickets, Property & Excise Tax Bills	<b>Tax Collector</b>	283-2601
General Accounting	<b>Town Accountant</b>	283-2602
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Dog Licenses, Business Certificates, Elections & Voter Registration	<b>Town Clerk</b>	283-2608
Bill Payment, Payroll, Insurance Benefits	<b>Town Treasurer</b>	283-2600
Veteran's Information/Referrals Benefits	<b>Veteran's Agent</b>	283-2610
<b>EMERGENCY NUMBERS - 911</b>	<b>Fire – Bondsville</b>	283-9036
	<b>Palmer</b>	283-3861
	<b>Three Rivers</b>	283-7161